

tell him where to inquire next. Mr. Sneyd took care to note this name and appeared to be writing it down, as he got me to spell it out.

It occurred to me that I did not have the address of CRISP in the office and so offered to send him a postcard that evening with the address from my home. He mentioned the Pax Hotel, Warwick Way, as his address. I said I knew the street in Pimlico and would write as soon as I could find the address of CRISP.

On Thursday evening I reflected that this visitor might be a nuisance to M. Liebois and that it was perhaps not correct to pass on a total stranger in this way, especially as his manner and purpose gave an odd, almost unbalanced impression, so on Friday, at 2.30 p.m., I simply posted a postcard suggesting that he consult the Belgian Embassy or the Consular Section of the British Foreign Office about his brother. This postcard was returned to me by the Post Office on the following Monday, 10th, as having insufficient address. The card was handed over by me to Chief Inspector Thompson at Scotland Yard the same afternoon.

It was on reading the Sunday newspapers on the 9th that I realised that the suspect arrested at Heathrow must be the same Raymond Sneyd who had been telephoning to me. I told Mr. S. R. Pawley, Managing Editor of the Daily Telegraph and set out in a taxi to find the Pax Hotel, which was not listed in the telephone book. One hotel in Warwick Way had a sign without a name and on enquiring there

I was told by the proprietor, Mrs. Anna Thomas, that this was the Pax Hotel. I had previously telephoned the hotel number that Sneyd had first given me and this proved to be the New Earl's Court Hotel in Penywern Road.

Mrs. Thomas admitted me. She said that Mr. Sneyd had spent Thursday and Friday there and had left on Saturday morning. She thought that he had simply walked down from B.O.A.C. air terminal, she said later, and that her hotel was one of the first in sight. Until I mentioned his arrest Mrs. Thomas did not refer to it. She then said that he had made a bad impression on her, was nervous, furtive, locked his bedroom door at night and stayed in bed most of the day. He had laundered his own clothes in his room, had a lot of newspapers, and tore up a lot of papers. Mrs. Thomas went to the trouble to turn out her dustbins for me and I advised her to keep anything she recovered thus for the police. I then discussed with her how to keep the name of her hotel quiet as I did not wish, and nor did she, to have every reporter in London there later that night. She told me that she was ex-directory, that the Post Office would not give her number and that the name of her hotel was on her cards only. As to the lack of a sign, she was having a sign made and had meanwhile borrowed the glass HOTEL sign. I asked why she did not have her hotel in the telephone book. She replied that she did not want to have people who had lived in her hotel ringing her up and bothering her. She did not bring me in to see her husband,

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but asked him through the door of a basement room whether he thought the photographs in the Sunday newspapers resembled their visitor. "It could be him" she remarked, "though he is much thinner in the face. The eyes are the same".

From this I assumed that the Thomases had noticed the reports about Raymond Sneyd earlier in the day and not simply heard his identity from me.

I asked about his departure. He had been trying to leave for Germany, Mr. Thomas said, on the Friday and a B.E.A. Ground Staff girl had rung up to tell him of a change of flight schedule and to remind him that he had not paid his coach ticket. Had he received a postcard from me before he left? I asked. She thought and said she remembered "something white" arriving for him in the Saturday morning post, which he had probably taken with him. The postcard, as I stated above, had never been delivered, but at the time of this conversation I did not know that.

As to how Mr. Sneyd found his way to me in the first place, I am still unclear. I do not believe that he just rang the Daily Telegraph foreign room, but that he was acting on advice that the paper had recently published something about mercenaries or about Major Wicks, and that he was seeking the address or telephone number of a mercenary officer in London. Indeed his first words to me related to this. I am now trying to work out what person could have put Sneyd up to this enquiry, whether he might have read some old cutting or picked up my recently

- 6 -

published book about Mr. Tshombe and the mercenaries from a bookstall. If I have a likely idea, I will be in touch with Chief Inspector Thompson again.

Signed: Ian Colvin
51 Cadogan Place,
S.W.1.
11.6.68

This statement, consisting of ten pages, each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it, knowing that if it is tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution, if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 11th day of June 1968

Signed: Ian Colvin
" / John Whitham
Detective Constable
New Scotland Yard

25

GERARD LIEBOIS

CRISP

ALISTAR COLBIN

LA Bros

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Statement of: Anna Elizabeth THOMAS

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21

Occupation: Hotel Proprietress

Address: Pax Hotel, 126 Warwick Way, London, S.W.1.

I am the proprietress of the above mentioned hotel. I live here with my husband and I have been proprietress of the hotel for one year. I let off four of my rooms to paying guests. On Wednesday 5th June 1968 at about 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. a man speaking with a Canadian or American accent called at my hotel asking to rent a room for three nights. The man was wearing a fawn raincoat and glasses that appeared to have dark lenses. He was about 5' 10", slim build with a slim face. I told him that the price was 30/- a night. He agreed to the price and he gave me a 25 note and I gave him 10/- change plus my hotel card. I then showed him into room number 2 on the ground floor, he closed the door. Before he went to his room he told me he was a Canadian and he came from Toronto and he looked very tired. On Thursday morning at 7.45 a.m. I brought his breakfast. I knocked on the door but his door was locked from the inside as I tried the key in the lock. I left the breakfast outside the door. After I had walked away a few paces he opened the door took the tray in and locked the door. On Thursday afternoon at about 4. p.m. I went

up to his room, let myself in with a key and the man was lying on the bed reading. I came to collect my visitors book which I had previously asked him to sign. I picked the book up without looking inside it and I said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Sneyd". He opened his wallet and showed me a plane ticket. He said, "I have a flight booked for Germany." I left the room and I did not see him at all that day. On Friday I again took up his tray for breakfast and left it there. About 10.0 a.m. Friday I again went to his room and told him that I had to move him to room 3 because of a prior booking of Room 2. I think I caught a glimpse of him on Friday evening when he was going upstairs. I then did not see him again until Saturday morning about 9.30 a.m. I saw him rushing out of the hotel and jump into a taxi, he was carrying a small air flight bag which he had over his shoulder. He was not carrying a suitcase. During the time he was here he had 4 phone calls. He had two calls from a woman from B.E.A. who asked for Mr. Sneyd. The first call was on Wednesday night when the caller asked that I leave a message for him regarding a 7/- coach fare. The second B.E.A. call again from a woman on Thursday morning when she asked me to leave a message for Mr. Sneyd regarding the availability of a flight to the Continent. On Thursday evening a lady phoned asked for Mr. Sneyd, she sounded American, she left no name or message. The last call was on Friday morning from a man who left no name or message. On Friday morning a white post card came addressed to

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Mr. Sneyd. I did not read it however I discovered that Sneyd had not signed the visitors book, but this is not unusual in the hotel. From the photographs I have seen of Sneyd I would not recognise him but the one in the News of the World was the nearest but he is now older. I would recognise the man if I saw him again.

This statement, consisting of 3 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of June, 1968.

(Signed) A. E. Thomas

Signature witnessed by John Whitham
Detective Constable

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Statement of: Janet Elizabeth NABBAU MISS
Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") 21 years
Occupation of Witness: Hotel Receptionist
Address: Flat 9, 29 Earls Court Square, S.W.5.
373 5433 (373 6431)

I am the receptionist of the New Earls Court Hotel, 36 Penywern Road, S.W.5. I have been so employed for two weeks. The procedure when a visitor comes to the hotel is for them to sign the visitors book first. I have examined the visitors book, and on the 28th May 1968 a man who signed the book as RAMON E. SNEYD giving the address "Toronto Canada" booked room No. 54 at the hotel. I produce the visitors book showing the entry. I have been shown by Detective Chief Inspector Thompson a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which I positively identify as the man SNEYD who stayed at the hotel. SNEYD was a very shy man and because of this I tried to help him. I explained currency differences and talked to him generally. He used to go out most days but never said where he went. Whilst he was at the hotel he did not receive any mail or telephone calls. I can remember that on the 4th June 1968, he made two telephone calls which I know were made to the Daily Telegraph Newspaper. The gist of the conversation by SNEYD was as follows: "About eight to ten days ago he had read in the Telegraph about a man, (he mentioned the name but I cannot

remember it) who had been deported from "POGO LAND" and he (SNEYD) wanted to know the man's address. He was most persistent in the enquiry to trace this man. Because he was so incoherent nobody seemed able to help him. I now remember that the man who was deported was a Captain or Major. In the end I think he got this man's address. I do not know who he spoke to at the Daily Telegraph.

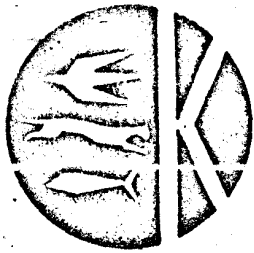
Sneyd eventually left the hotel on Wednesday, 5th June to go to the Air Terminal. He paid his bill in English currency. I have been shown a receipt No. 59 in the name Mr. Sneyd. This refers to the £10 deposit he paid on the 28th May 1968 when he first came to the hotel. I can remember that at some stage of Sneyd's stay he asked me how much the bill would be as he would have to get English currency to pay for it. There is no record at the hotel that he has stayed here on more than the one occasion.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated day of 1968.

(Signed) J.E. Nassau

Statement taken down in writing and signature witnessed by me in the presence of Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, P. Elliott, Detective Sergeant



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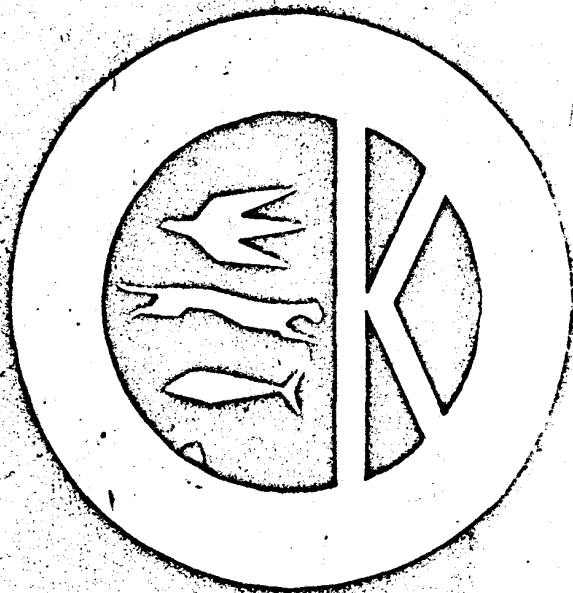
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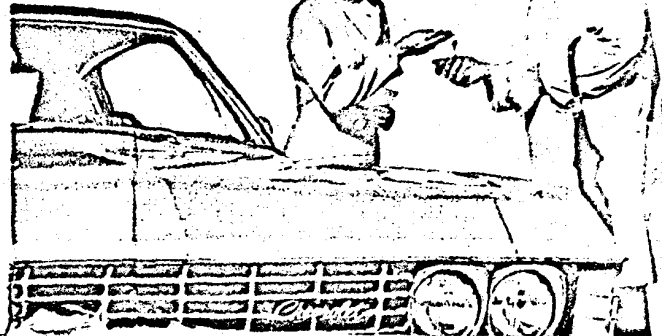
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SILENCERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Various types of silencing devices have long been used with varying degrees of success on nearly all types of small arms. The Maxim patent silencer (illustrated below) was widely used before silencers were declared illegal in the U. S. under the National and Federal Firearms Acts. It was supposed in principal to impart a spin to the exiting muzzle gas, thus preventing the muzzle blast and resultant noise. Other common types attempted to bleed off the gas after it was captured in chambers at the muzzle, usually with complicated arrangements of flutter valves or other devices. Perhaps the most common and indeed the most efficient design is patterned after the automobile muffler, in which the gas is captured in a chamber at the muzzle, and escapes slowly from the chamber through the same holes it entered, or through exit holes positioned at opposite sides.

LEGAL NOTE: Due to the effective use of silenced firearms by poachers and assassins, many countries have stringent legal control of any type of firearm silencing device. Indeed, in the United States they fall under the purview of Title 22, Foreign Relations, Chapter 1, Department of State Regulation 108.425-Revised Sub-chapter M, Section 121.01, Category 1, Paragraph (c) in that they are listed as an implement of war requiring a special license for importation. They also come under the purview of Part 179 of Title 26, Code of Federal Regulations (National Firearms Act) in that they are defined as a firearm requiring a special \$200 tax stamp plus federal registration upon manufacture or change of ownership. Application for the tax stamps and registration is obtained from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, Internal Revenue Service, U. S. Treasury Department. Should one make such a silencing device without proper exemption (available to Police and other authorized agencies) he is liable to the tax, plus the interest and penalties thereon, in addition to possible criminal liability for penalties under Section 5861, I. R. C.

MECHANICAL THEORY: The noise on cartridges which travel slower than sound comes from the blast of hot expanding gas bursting from the muzzle, or around the breech in a revolver. A device which effectively captures this blast of gas and releases it slowly enough will therefore silence the firearm, at least in theory. There are exceptions to this, however, which must be noted. The more obvious are open-breeched weapons such as a revolver or revolving rifle, which allow a blast to escape around the cylinder. Indeed, even unlocked breech weapons such as sub-machine guns allow a flash to escape from the ejection port. The British Sten and the American M-3 were both fitted with rudimentary silencers which proved effective for special missions in spite of this minor defect, however.

The second notable exception becomes apparent when one considers that not all cartridges can be silenced, as projectiles which leave the muzzle faster than the speed of sound (about 1140 f. p. s.) create a noise of their own as they travel through the air, and the partial vacuum they leave behind creates noise when the air rushes back in. Therefore, we will hereafter consider only those cartridges which can be obtained factory loaded to velocities below the speed of sound (many other cartridges may also be hand-loaded to suitable velocities, but since the possibilities are innumerable they will not be dealt with here). The most common cartridges in the silenceable category are: .22 CB Cap, .22 Short, .25 & .32 Auto, .32 S & W, .32 S & W Long, .32 Short Colt, .32 Long Colt, .32-20 Winchester, .38 S & W, .38 S & W Special, .38 Short Colt, .38 Long Colt, .38 ACP, .380 Auto, 9MM Luger (Parabellum), .38-40 Winchester, .41 Short, .41 Long Colt, .44 Special & Russian, .44-40 Winchester, .45 ACP, .45 Long Colt, .455 Webley (Eley) Revolver, .455 Webley (Eley) Automatic; plus a wide selection of shotgun cartridges loaded with solid balls.

Although the above-mentioned Maxim silencers attempted to stop the noise by not only capturing but also breaking up and giving spin to them, the most effective silencers have been the captive type, whether of the complicated "bleed-off" valve-release or the simple "automobile muffler" type. The most effective cartridge selection is obviously one with the heaviest possible projectile traveling at the lower velocity, such as the .45 ACP.

or .45 Long Colt. The favorites of professional poachers are single-shot rifles firing .43 or .45 rifle cartridges loaded to low velocities. The rifle has the additional advantage that its longer barrel tends to minimize the muzzle blast, as most of the powder is completely burned before it reaches the muzzle.

It is also obvious that since the purpose of the silencer is to capture the gas and release it slowly, the smaller caliber arms will need only a smaller chamber in which to contain this captured gas than does a larger cartridge with its resultant larger volume of escaping gas. The .22 "scratch" pistols used a silencer which was approximately one inch in diameter and eight inches long. The British Sten was fitted with a silencer which encircled the barrel and was about 2 1/2" to 3" in diameter. A .45 ACP weapon should have a chamber about 3" in diameter and at least 4" long in order to be effective and safe. It must be remembered that these escaping gases are under strong pressure, and the silencer must be very sturdily designed and constructed in order to withstand the working pressures involved. Certain modern designs have incorporated an outer chamber which is constructed of heavy rubber, which expands to contain the volume of gas at the instant of firing, but which is compact and not liable to burst and throw dangerous shrapnel. An old trick of country crow hunters is to put a baby-bottle nipple on the end of his .22, which is good for several rounds before it becomes too ragged to be effective.

As the length of the barrel is important due to the fact that a longer barrel allows the powder to be completely burned before the blast reaches the muzzle, it is readily seen that the faster-burning pistol powders (such as Hercules Bullseye) are more practical, since they accomplish the same thing in a shorter, more compact barrel.

"BLEED-OFF" DESIGNS: The "bleed-off" systems will be mentioned only in passing, as they are less practical, less safe and much more complicated in design than the more popular "automobile muffler" types. These must by their nature be built to much closer tolerances and constructed to withstand greater pressures than other types. This is largely due to the fact that they divert the gas pressure first to the pressure chamber through small check valves, then from the chamber through other small valves into the atmosphere, or in some designs merely through small exit ports. In these designs, the chamber is usually not filled with any type of acoustical packing. As these are more complicated to design and build, they are favored by neither designers nor gunsmiths. A schematic diagram is shown below to illustrate the principal of operation -- it is not intended as a blueprint for jack-knife gunsmiths who would break the law and jeopardize their safety with a soldered booby-trap.

AUTOMOBILE MUFFLER" DESIGNS: The effectiveness of this design depends on a pressure chamber of sufficient size and strength to capture the expanding gases from the burning gunpowder and allow a drop in pressure before the projectile leaves the muzzle of the gun. Therefore, these are usually fitted to the muzzle, although in the case of certain designs they telescope the barrel and the gas entry ports are just forward of the chamber (as in some designs built for the Sten and US M-3; the design for the Sten even allowed the pressure to drop to a point where the projectile left the muzzle at less than the speed of sound). The part of the barrel which is covered by the pressure chamber is slotted or perforated to allow the gases to enter freely. This chamber is usually packed with some type of acoustical deadening material (such as coarse spun glass, steel wool, bronze wool, etc.). This design, although very simple, serves a two-fold purpose in that the gases are baffled as they enter and exit the chamber, and the high pressure which causes the objectionable muzzle blast is lowered before the projectile leaves the barrel. For these and other reasons, this design has proved to be the most practical and satisfactory in use. It is well to note here that although these silencing devices seem very simple in design, they must be built to withstand tremendous pressures in use, and their construction should not be undertaken by any unqualified or unskilled persons merely because they have access to the necessary tools and machinery and a low regard for the laws involved.

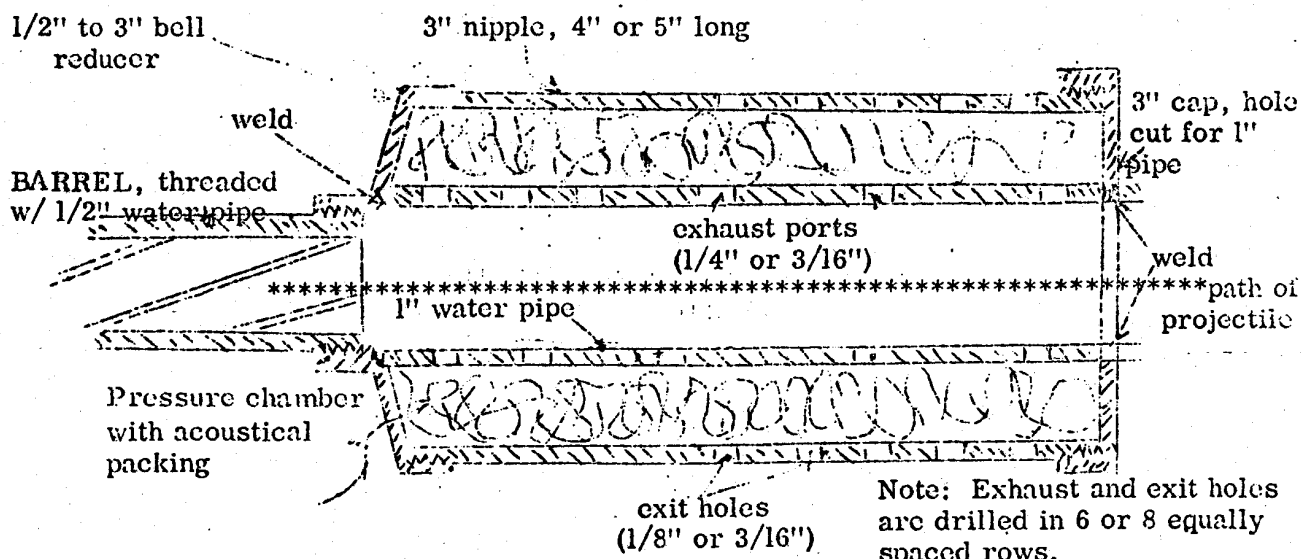
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SILENCERS...

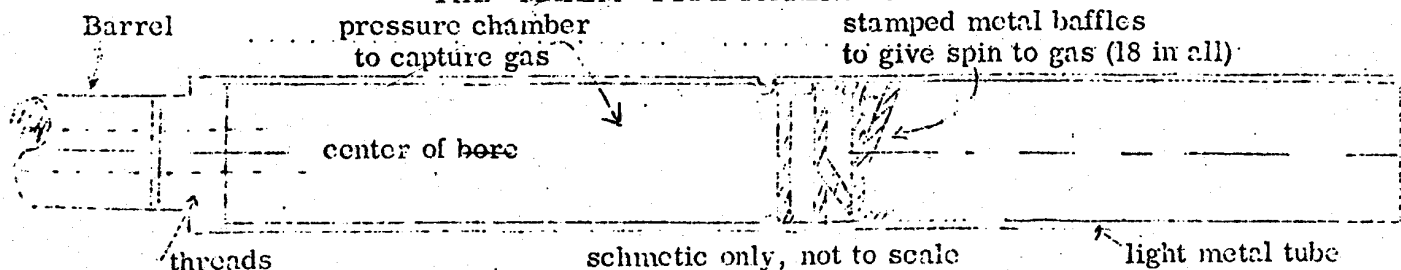
For the sake of simplicity the below representative plan is of a silencer attached to a .45ACP caliber M-3 "Greasegun" sub-machinegun. This weapon is ideal in that it has a handily protruding barrel, solid construction and a good cartridge. To be truly effective, the pressure chamber must have a volume in excess of 25 cubic inches (the smaller it is, the more sturdily it must be constructed, as the pressure will be greater). This is accomplished in a chamber 3" in diameter and about 4" long, but these proportions may be altered to conform to the particular weapon, as long as the volume remains the same or larger. For the sake of safety, a silencer of the captive type should be wrapped with heavy canvas or glass cloth in case of a rupture, and for insulation, as nearly all silencing devices grow quite hot under sustained fire. Also, great care must be taken that the inside of the silencers align perfectly with the bore before a round is ever fired, and for this reason it is wise to have this inner wall larger than the bore and projectile size.

As it is usually impractical within the limits of existing regulations for the individual to construct silencing attachments, a very practical and inexpensive device may be constructed from a small crate about two feet square, from which is suspended cloth strips held with chicken wire on the inside in a circular lining which acts as an acoustical deadening device but does not actually attach to the weapon; this being very practical for indoor ranges when placed around the muzzle of the arm, or suspended from the ceiling for pistol shooting. As this sort of arrangement is more of a muzzle-blast muffler and is away from the muzzle by a foot or so on all sides, it has the advantage of not interfering with and sights.

Additional information on silencers may be obtained from: "Pistols, Rifles and Machine Guns", Maj. W. G. B. Allen, English Universities Press; "The World's Submachine Guns", Thomas Nelson, International Small Arms Publishers, Cologne; and the "Gun Digest" 1964 18th Edition.

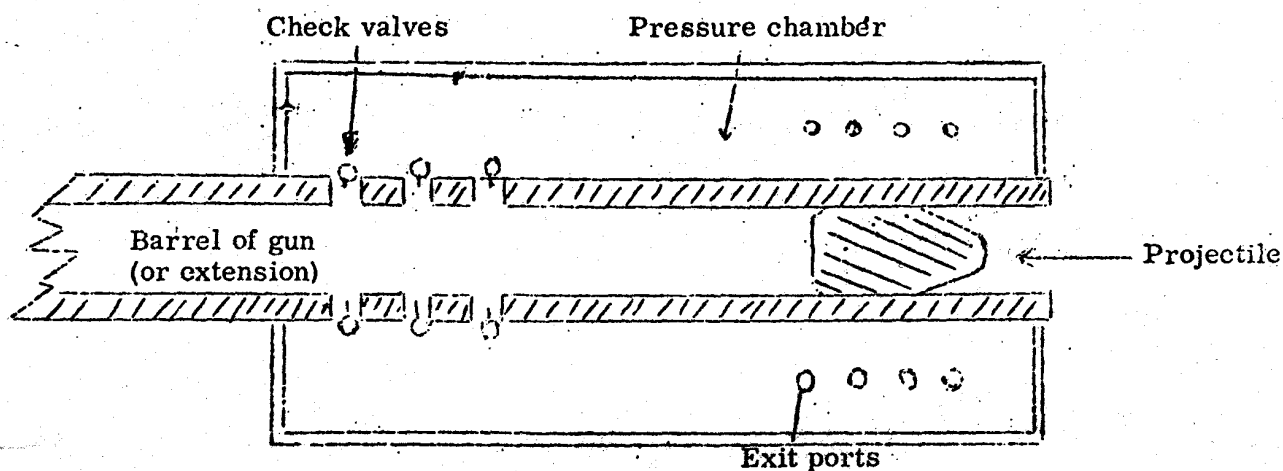


THE "MAXIM" TYPE PATENT SILENCER



RESUME: Thus far we have learned that the silenced firearm is preferably of large bore and low velocity, closed-breech design (such as an automatic pistol or rifle); it has the longest possible barrel; the cartridge is best if as heavy as possible, and loaded to velocities less than 1140 f. p. s.; a fast-burning powder is preferable in order to lessen the length of barrel necessary for complete burning. The following schematic diagrams illustrate the principles involved in the various silencers, and show how effective silencers are built by authorized, competent gunsmiths:

"BLEED-OFF" SILENCER, SCHEMATIC



"AUTOMOBILE MUFFLER" SILENCER
(SIDE VIEW)

