A TREATISE ON RIFLE PROJECTILES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649432141

A Treatise on Rifle Projectiles by John Boucher

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JOHN BOUCHER

A TREATISE ON RIFLE PROJECTILES

Trieste

A TREATISE

ON

RIFLE PROJECTILES:

IN WHICH

THE APPARENT ANOMALIES AND CONTRADICTIONS EXHIBITED IN THE PENETRATION OF ELONGATED RIFLE BULLETS

ARE ACCOUNTED FOR,

THE BEST FORM OF PROJECTILE FOR DEEP PENETRATION

IS DESCRIBED,

AND

THE MOST EFFECTIVE RANGE FOR SINKING AND PREVENTING THE APPROACH OF HOSTILE BOATS

IS POINTED OUT.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

EXPERIMENTAL PROOFS OF THE FALSITY OF THE "MINIÉ" PRINCIPLE, AND THE UNSOUNDNESS OF THE AMERICAN "*FREED* BORE" SYSTEM.

BY

JOHN BOUCHER,

FORMERLY OF THE 8th DRAGOON GUARDS;

AUTHOR OF "THE RIFLEMAN AND THE RIFLE," "RIFLE PRACTICE," ETC.

LONDON:

CHARLES AND EDWIN LAYTON,

150, FLEET STREET.

1856.

PREFACE.

Having been requested to place upon paper my opinion relative to "the apparent anomalies and contradictions which exhibit themselves in the penetration of elongated rifle bullets," I attempted to do so in the form of a Lecture: but finding, on examination, that my experiments had produced a greater mass of important matter than I had anticipated—and also, that "the best form of projectile" and "the most effective range" were closely interwoven with the subject, I preferred adopting a somewhat more extended form, rather than injure the work by curtailment.

It was impossible, during the early part of my experimental inquiries, not to trace or to imagine, among the variety of facts which presented themselves, certain indications which I believe have served to prop up the strange theories which some writers—through mistaken notions, no doubt—have attempted to establish; and having formed such conjectures, the desire to refute or to verify them gave additional interest to the pursuit. I have not, however, attempted at present to offer a complete enumeration of all the curious and interesting

facts which have come under my notice, as that would have extended the work far beyond the limits I assigned to it; but I have endeavoured to present those which struck me as the most important, either for solving the original question, or for explaining the other subjects which are necessarily connected with it.

J. BOUCHER.

SURREY VILLAS, CAMBERWELL,
June, 1856.

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