

I became aware of the name Malcolm Cooper in the early to mid eighty's when I was ask by Dr Palmisano to become involved in a project for the US 300 meter team. It had been determined that the US shooters were losing points as a result of excessive recoil from the .308 caliber cartridge utilizing the 168 grain bullet.

Dr. Palmisano's assignment was to design a cartridge/bullet combination that had down range performance equal to or better than the 308/168-grain bullet with less recoil. Dr. Palmisano engaged the services of Mr. William C. Davis of the Tioga Engineering Company, Inc. to design the bullet.

Mr. Davis is one of if not the most knowledgeable small arms ballistcian in our country. Between the two of them the 105 VLD (very low drag) bullet was designed. My part of the project was securing quality jackets and making the bullet for this project.

I first met Malcolm in June 1986 when a small group of long time short range (100/300 yards) bench rest shooters were invited to travel to your country and participate in the first ever short range bench rest match at your Historic Bisley range.

During our stay a little match was held but much time was devoted to reloading techniques and what was necessary to make a rifle shoot small groups. This is were I met Malcolm, he was EXTREMELY interested in the fine points of what was necessary to make a rifle shoot to an accuracy level that our 10.5 pound rifles were capable of.

The next time I saw Malcolm was September 1986 at Skovde, Sweden. I had been invited by Dr. Palmisano to travel with our 300 meter team for two weeks of practice and one week of the World Championship match to load for and observe the performance of the new 105 grain VLD bullet that one of our team members was shooting.

Shortly after arriving at the range at Skovde I was approached by Malcolm. He said that he had heard I was with the US team reloading for some of them. He said that he had a little problem and wanted to know if I could help him. I said I would try. He told me he was loading in his room at night and he was going to be short a few primers and wanted to know if I had some extra ones that he could purchase. I said no but I had some that I would be glad to give him. As the saying goes the rest is history as Malcolm was the dominate shooter and established at least two new world records, one in the prone position and one in the standing position.

I saw Malcolm on several other occasions when he came to our annual Shot Show and we would spend some time talking about rifle accuracy. I commented on the fact that in less than three months he had accepted and perfected the principles of reloading to a degree that he would use it in a World Championship Tournament and then establish New World records. I will not forget his comment and I quote " After seeing how your rifles shot at Bisley there was no question in my mind there were times that I had performed better than my equipment and I had to correct that problem".

There is no question in my mind that he had solved those problems.

His untimely death has taken a great person from the shooting sports, he is missed.

Walt Berger