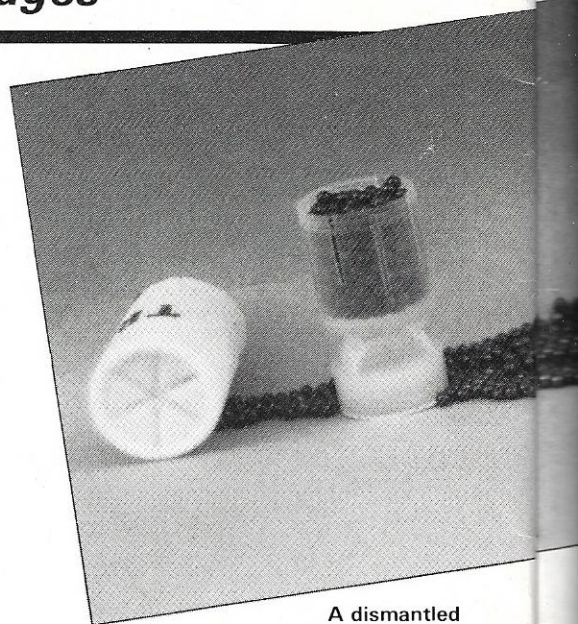


Andrew Panayi of AP Calibres is a keen shooter himself.



A dismantled Victory cartridge.

## 'V' for Victory

THE CLOSE of the 1984 clay shooting season saw the introduction of one of the most exciting new ranges of cartridges to hit the UK for some years.

Aptly named 'Victory', the cartridges are imported by a newly formed Cheshire company, AP Calibres Ltd. Andrew Panayi, the managing director, has been a keen shooter in the Manchester area for some years. The idea occurred to him when he visited North Wales SS last year to support his national Cypriot team in the Diners Club International competition. There he saw the team take the silver medals in both Skeet and Trap, as well as the individual silver in Skeet, with all members using these distinctive cartridges.

Victory cartridges are produced in Cyprus by G & L Calibres Ltd, with whom

Andrew's family is involved, and therefore it took little persuasion to get them imported to the UK after having them first approved by the Birmingham Proof House.

G & L Calibres is based near Nicosia and is the brainchild of Lakis Spimolophitis, who represented Greece at Skeet in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and finished a creditable eighth. With a degree in design engineering, he had previously worked for a Greek arms manufacturer until he developed his own cartridge manufacturing company in 1977.

Production of the Victory is on modern Italian Industrial Space Co. machines, with all plastic tubing and wads designed and produced by G & L Calibres. Batches are continuously computer tested for velocity, pressure and quality, and then stored in

temperature controlled magazines, thereby ensuring stability and continuity throughout each batch.

Each eight hour shift produces 60,000 cartridges a day with, besides national use, exports to the Middle East, Canada and now the UK.

G & L Calibres have obviously done their homework on what shooters require from their cartridges and other manufacturers could well take a leaf from their book!

Appearance of the cartridge is excellent with good distinctive packaging. Specification details are printed on the box side with distinctive colouring and printing for each type of cartridge — ie, white for Trap, yellow for Skeet at 480 bars. They are 5/8in deep with a metal head and round symmetrical six star crimp and centre weld.

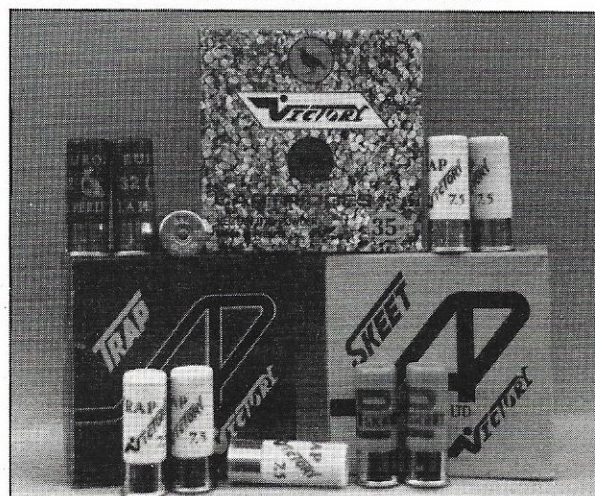
At 67.5 mm long, Victories can be used in 2½in or 2¾in chambered guns and, although velocities are high at 1180 f.p.s., the average observed recoil at under 2.5 tons per square inch is low, thereby giving the shooter the best of both worlds.

This is achieved by the use of French type A0 powder — green round flakes — with double force type 209 Italian Olin primer, and the almost smooth, glass finish to the inside of the case. This gives a

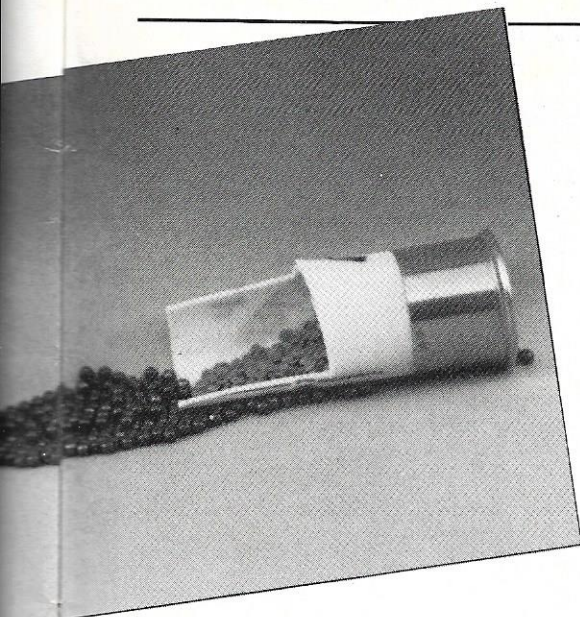
Part of the Victory assembly line in Cyprus.



The Victory cartridges are distinctively packaged.







Cartridge	Effective Diameter of Spread (inches)	Total Diameter of Spread (inches)	Number of 2½ in Diameter Patches	Quality
Victory Trap 7½	26	30	2	Patches right on edge, otherwise very even, widespread distribution.
Victory Skeet 9	26	32	0	Dense, even distribution.
Eley Olympic Trap 7½	26	30	3	Patches on edge, otherwise even, widespread distribution.
Winchester Trap 7½	26	28	5	Patches on edge, rather uneven, dense centre.

perfect seal to the plastic power piston wad, which minimises friction and thereby reduces recoil.

Three different wads are used, according to the characteristic required from the cartridge, but on the whole they all have 'cushion legs' with four joined or unjoined petals.

The shot is of good quality, chilled and hardened, truly spherical with little variation in size and a polished finish. The base wad is plastic.

This year will see the introduction of the '550 bar' range, giving even higher velocities at over 1200 f.p.s. while still maintaining pattern quality. These will be

available in Trap 7½ in a gold case, Trap 8s or true English 7½s in bronze and Skeet 9s in silver. Experiments are also taking place with a new non-lead shot which looks like nickel and has the advantage of being non-toxic. This could be quite important if pressures continue from conservationists on the use of lead.

Using my Perrazi MT6 with a Skeet choke (4/1000) at 20 yards, I patterned and compared the Victory with some other popular leading brands. The effective diameter of spread should be 26-28 ins, with the results as in the table above.

Leading shooters such as Graham Stirzaker and the Welsh Sporting captain,

Hayden Thomas, are already using Victory cartridges with great success. I have also been well pleased with their results to date.

Victory are definitely one of the quickest and best cartridges I have used. Their high velocity, low recoil and devastating 'kill power' make them excellent value at £84 per 1000 or £2.70 per box.

A range of deep headed, colour coded game cartridges in 1oz, 1 1/16oz, 1½oz and 1 3/16oz are available at the same price, with 1¼oz game and FITASC loads at £93 per 1000 or £3.30 per box. Magnum loads and possibly smaller gauges will be available later in the year through appointed main area stockists.

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