

## Insight on Currently Available Black Powder.

### From the work of Wm. A. Knight aka Dutch Bill.

Just this week I received a CD packed with the authoritative work of a fine pard, Dutch Bill, as he is known on The Open Range. I've come to admire the depth of knowledge and wisdom this gentleman has about our own chosen powder, Holy Black.

His work, packed on this CD, is the result of a career length involvement and as a consultant at the very heart of Black Powder manufacture and distribution. The fact that I was privileged with the trust of Dutch Bill and the receipt of this material humbles me. The depth and detail of each of the powders included in his study is far to voluminous to fully recount here. I'll give some of the highlights and his conclusions.

### Here is Dutch Bill's conclusion of his exhaustive work with GOEX CTG powder. . .

*"What we see in the original claims made for the CTG powder is a powder manufacturer that does not understand the technology of the product they are producing. This is typical of the black powder manufacturers around the world. They produce powder the way they have done for long periods of time. But lack a basic understanding of the finer points in powder manufacturing. Shooters think that the various black powder manufacturers have a good understanding of the technology of black powder manufacturing which is simply not true.*

*CTG sells for a dollar a pound more than the regular production powder and think they are getting a premium powder. The CTG never really took over the market for black powder cartridge shooting."*

Those are pretty strong words. The work supporting this conclusion is exhaustive and complete.

**Here is a look at the powder GOEX made to compete with Swiss powder.** This is only the conclusion. There's a very complete and exhaustive study that precludes and supports it.

*"Goex did not aggressively market the Swiss powder the first year it was in their hands. One got the impression that they were simply trying to bury it. It was proving to be something of an embarrassment to them given the quality problems they were encountering in their own production.*

*The Swiss soon tired of Goex and contracted with another powder company to import and distribute the Swiss powder. This other company aggressively marketed the Swiss powder which then took a good bite out of Goex sales.*

*This Goex Express powder is an attempt by Goex to recover some of the business lost to the Swiss powder. Had Goex priced this Express powder between the price of the Swiss powder and the price of their regular production powder they would have been in a position to drive the Swiss powder out of the U.S. market."*

Again, refreshing insight, courageously stated and not couched in the PC rhetoric so common today.

Let's take a look at what conclusions Dutch Bill made about WANO/Schuetzen powders. . .

*"When the 2003 shipment had first been tested it was found that the Schuetzen 3Fg was faster than the then most recent GOEX 3Fg. In viewing the data from the 2003 and 2004 shipments of Schuetzen you could not ask for better reproducibility.*

### **In closing.**

*With the 2004 shipment of Schuetzen powder the 2Fg Schuetzen now matches Goex 2Fg. Other than the increase in velocity with the 2Fg Schuetzen the powder exhibits a good degree of consistency from one production run to the next.*

*William A. Knight*

Since I've been a consumer of the least expensive black powder I could get my hands on, I'll give you some of the words Dutch Bill wrote about that product. He's not entirely flattering.

## LIDU Black Powder

made in

Peoples Republic of China

*The grains are well polished with very hard surfaces and well rounded edges. However, once the grains are fractured, the center portions of the grains simply crumble into dust.*

### **Ballistics.**

*Test Rifle: Lyman (Investarms) Trade Rifle, .50 caliber, percussion ignition.*

*.490 Speer balls, .020" #40 cotton drill patches.*

*Lehigh Valley Shooting Patch Lubricant.*

*CCI #11 Magnum percussion caps.*

*Pact Professional Chronograph, 15 feet from muzzle.*

*Charges by volume measure. 80 volume charges.*

*1228 fps. ave., Lidu 2Fg, as received.*

*1364 fps. ave., Lidu 3Fg, as received.*

*These powders could not be ignited with the magnum percussion caps. It was necessary to "prime" the breech with 10 grains of Elephant 3Fg to act as an intermediate primer. This lack of ignition being a function of grain size and heavy glazing of the powder grains.*

Much has happened with this powder since the batches Dutch Bill tested. I use it as a "worse case" powder in testing Big Lube™ bullet performance for accuracy and firearm function. I've never had ignition problems such as Bill experienced. If Big Lube™ bullets perform well with LIDU/DRAGON powder, they'll work well with most others.

I'm including Dutch Bill in my newsletter mailing. I intend to use his fine work in future Big Lube™ Bulletin newsletters. There is so much material that I could only give readers a glimpse at the surface. Any conclusions he made are very well backed up by exhaustive lab analysis and thorough range testing. It's unlikely that BLB readers could find this same valuable material anywhere else on the planet and certainly not in the complete and concise form it was sent to me. It is my intent to include more material from this work in future BLB issues. Dutch Bill, thank you for your lasting and authoritative work.

DD