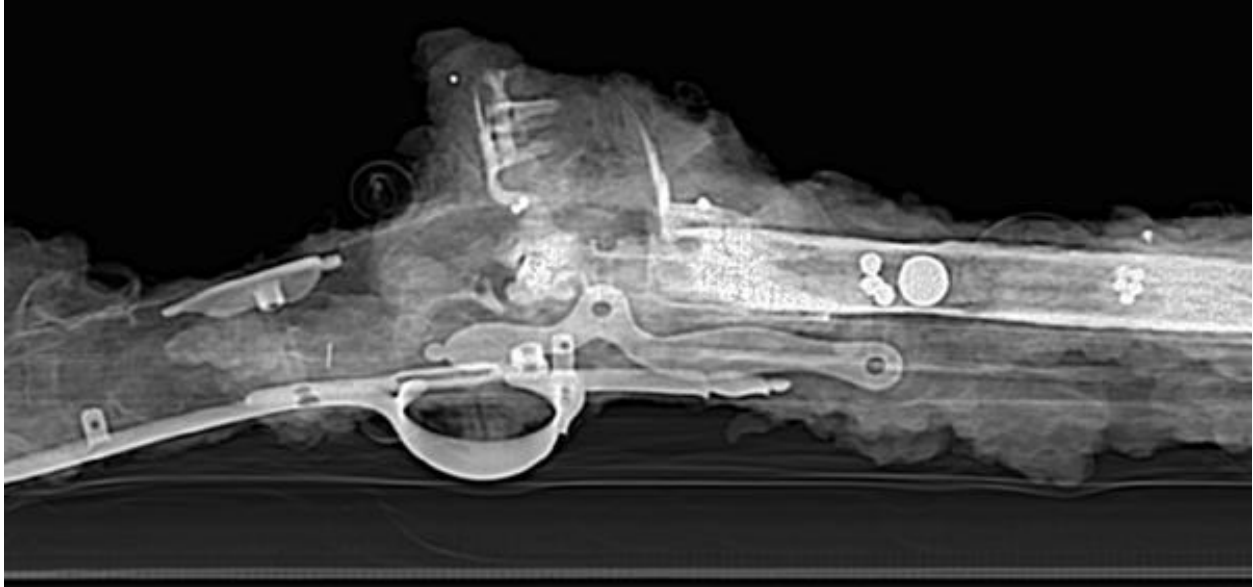


# The .500 Wasn't Always the Big Kid on the Block

Back when muskets still ruled the world, a .50 caliber ball was on the low end of the totem pole. The most common bore sizes for a musket during the Revolutionary War ranged from .62 to .75 inches.



*X-ray of a Brown Bess musket loaded with buck and ball in December 1782, during the American Revolution.*

However, George Washington was one of the biggest proponents of what was called the "Buck and Ball" load during the war, which included a .50 ball coupled with 3-6 buckshot balls behind it. The benefits of this load at short range combined the massive impact of a 1/2-inch ball with the widespread buckshot peppering guaranteed to stop a man at 75 yards and potentially slow down the guys next to him. Lucky for us, the British felt this load was uncivilized to use in war and it remained in U.S. military use up until The Civil War.

With the advancement of modern firearms and smokeless powder, in particular, caliber size diminished over time. There just wasn't a need for a giant bullet when the powder became so much more powerful. Until there was...



In 2003, Smith & Wesson wanted to reclaim the title of the most powerful handgun in the world. So, they partnered up with CorBon to develop the .500 cartridge for their new X-Frame revolver. After a long history of developing powerful handgun cartridges, S&W decided they'd like to build one that can take down ALL types of big game.

Why? Because apparently, it's a real nuisance when you're hunting in Alaska and a Kodiak bear decides to join your party, OR ruin it.

The only minor issue with a .500 in your hand is...IT KICKS LIKE A MULE! We've found it's a lot more fun to shoot in a rifle. Less kick, more accuracy, and most importantly MORE POWER!



We may be a little biased, but if you want to learn how a .500 feels in a rifle, give us a call at 307-586-3700 OR click the button below!