

9mm Luger Headstamp from Ecuador



This headstamp was originally identified as probably being made by or for Macedonia. The letters at 3 and 9 O'Clock appeared to be Cyrillic. Based on this conclusion, the letter on the left is unique to Cyrillic alphabet used in Macedonia which was the basis for the identification. Macedonia was also a known producer of 9mm Luger ammunition at a the Suvenir factory in Samokov, but the headstamp style used by Suvenir is very different from this headstamp and it was considered unlikely that it was produced in Macedonia.

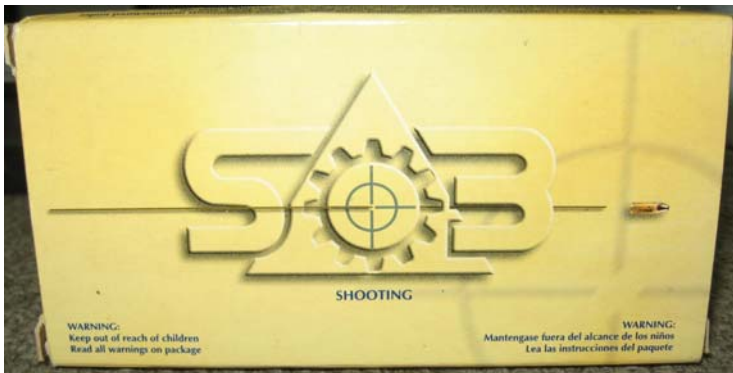
There were two weakness in this identification. The first is that the style of the headstamp letters appeared to bare some relationship to headstamps produced by CBC in Brazil. However CBC has produced ammunition with special headstamps for customers worldwide so it seemed possible that CBC could have produced this cartridge for a customer in Macedonia, however, a check with CBC indicated that they had not made this headstamp.

The second weakness was that the fired case was found in Columbia and a connection between the case and Macedonia seemed a bit unlikely.

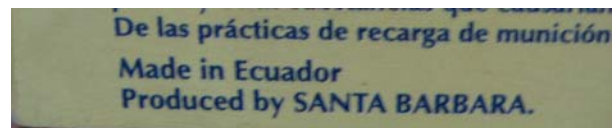
Subsequently this headstamp showed up on a 38 Special case could also make a Macedonian identificantion less credible.



On a recent trip to Argentina, I encountered the commercial box illustrated below in the AACMA collection which provided a more credible identification.



The side of the box yielded some clear answers.



Apparently CBC (MAGTECH) provided the equipment for the Santa Barbara facility which explains the headstamp having characteristics of the CBC headstamps.

Prior to encountering this box I didn't know that there was a facility in Ecuador producing pistol ammunition.

I still have not seen this actual headstamp, only the photos reproduced here. If someone comes across this cartridge or fired cases, I would be very interested in obtaining one.