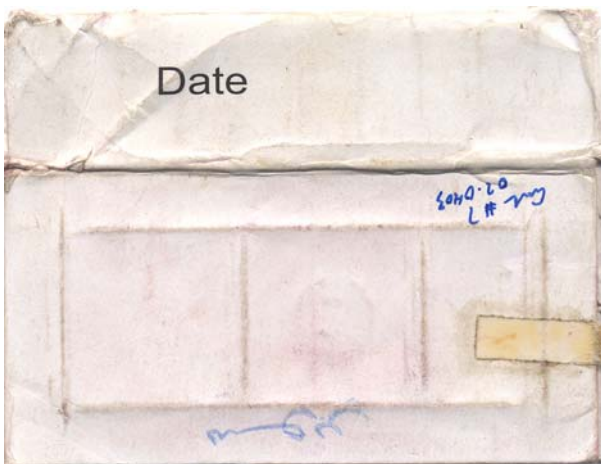
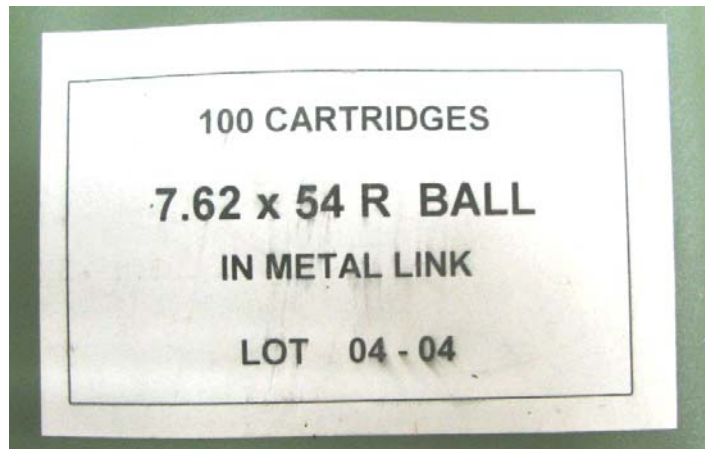


## A Confusing 9mm Para Headstamp

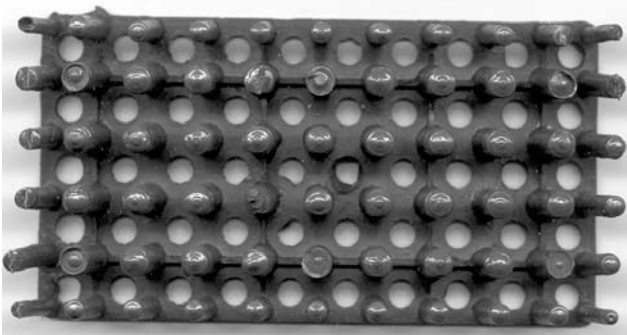
Some years ago, I learned of the existence of a headstamp that stumped me. It was only "9x19" across the top and "00" across the bottom. A couple of fired cases with this headstamp were found among about 2000 rounds of fired empty cases with EDP headstamps which were produced by the Olympic Industries S.A. of Greece. It is unclear who actually produced the EDP headstamped cases, or in fact, any of the cases loaded by Olympic Industries.

I eventually obtained one of these cases. Later I obtained another fired case with a 96 date and received a photo of one with a 95 date. I have a box of Olympic Industries 7.92x57mm ammunition with this style headstamp dated 02. I would not be surprised if other calibers by Olympic used this headstamp.

In 2008, a box of 9x19 ammunition with this headstamp, dated 07, turned up in Iraq. These cartridges have the same distinctive grainy style headstamp of all the other cartridges with this marking that had been previously encountered. One explanation is that this grainy appearance is the result of a creating the headstamp bunter using a misadjusted electro-static discharge machining (EDM) or using the EDM to rapidly product the bunters without regard to the quality of finish. This grainy appearance also occurs on the Olympic EDP 9x19mm headstamps mentioned earlier. Also in 2008, some 7.62x54R loads with this headstamp showed up Iraq, with this headstamp style but without the grainy appearance. The photo below illustrates both headstamps. The difference is obvious. The 7.62x54R cartridge has all the appearance of being produced by Prvi Partizan of Serbia. This box labels for the two boxes are pictured below.



Note the Arabic on the 9x19mm box. I'm told these comments are not relevant to our subject, but do not have a translation. The 9mm box is even more generic than the 7.62mm box. The plastic insert in the 9mm box is very unusual. It is relatively crudely made and the vertical posts holding the cartridges are three different diameters with the smallest on the corners.



It is reliably reported that Olympic loaded their own ammo using components bought elsewhere. The EDP headstamp was reported to be made specifically for Olympic, but much of their other ammunition used cases from a number of sources. There are a number of cartridges with this same grainy headstamp including an EDP headstamped 7.62x54R cartridge. Some of these headstamps are illustrated below. Note the cartridge on the far left is confirmed Iranian, and the 7.62x39 headstamp next to it is reported by a very

knowledgable source with good Iranian contacts to be a product of DIO in Iran although this is not confirmed. All four of these headstamps have very similar primer crimps and look like they were loaded by the same company. My guess is they are all made in Iran.



I would write off all these Caliber/Date headstamps as Iranian except that the 7.62x54R cartridge from 2004 pictured earlier creates a problem as do the English language labels.

An explanation may be that this ammo is all being bought from various sources by Olympic Industries or whatever the company is called today (I couldn't find Olympic Industries on the internet) I suspect that this company bought the 9x19 dated 2008 from Iran. And then sold it to the US for issue to the new Iraq Security Forces. The 7.62x54R with this headstamp could have also be a US buy for Iraq, where the contract was won by PPU.

This is only speculation based on the specimens I have encountered. It does not explain the range of dates used on the 9x19mm ammunition (from 1995 through 2007) unless this was some sort of standard Iranian export headstamp.

Any additional information would be greatly appreciated as would other theories on the identification of this 9x19mm ammunition. Perhaps someone recognizes the very unusual plastic tray form the 9mm box.