

## CRIMPING! EUROPEAN STYLE

by John Kynor

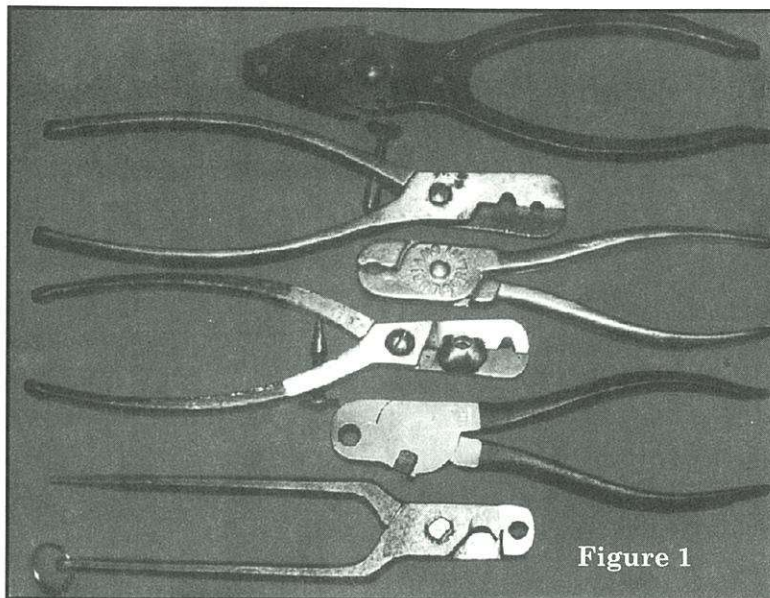
We all know about the “Old Blaster” and the “Bold Blaster”. In my opinion it was the “Bold Blaster” who required a Forensic Dentist to inspect the canine crimp applied to that Fulminate Blasting Cap; but it was the “Old Blaster” who used a proper crimping tool to help insure his old age. Cap crimpers have been around from the time that old Alfred figured out how to make his Dynamite invention go bang. In fact, European type crimpers have probably been on the scene longer than those #1’s or Miner’s Safety Tools we see around the trade shows. Therefore, the purpose of this banter reduced to words is to acquaint you with six distinctive types of European crimpers that do the crimping job well, and also perform various other functions. One of the common traits of these six crimpers is that they are constructed of good heavy material, and obviously their manufacturer meant them to be around for many years. The crimpers referred to in this article date from the teen’s to current production, and based on their construction it would behoove some U.S. firms to try and match the quality.

For the purpose of this article, the information imparted will match picture #1 going from top to bottom.

1. The first set of crimpers in more of a multi purpose tool, (see picture #2), and they are very close in construction to the E-B crimpers that were shown in volume #1, page 23. However, these crimpers are Italian made,

and were used both in the commercial and military world. This set of crimpers is listed in an Italian explosive publication, *Istruzione*

*Sui Lavori Di Mina E Sugli Esplosivi*, dated 1935. This is about the same time as the E-B crimpers appeared. Did someone do some copying here? This tool is constructed of heavy steel and has a black oxide finish, with a fuse splitter blade that can be

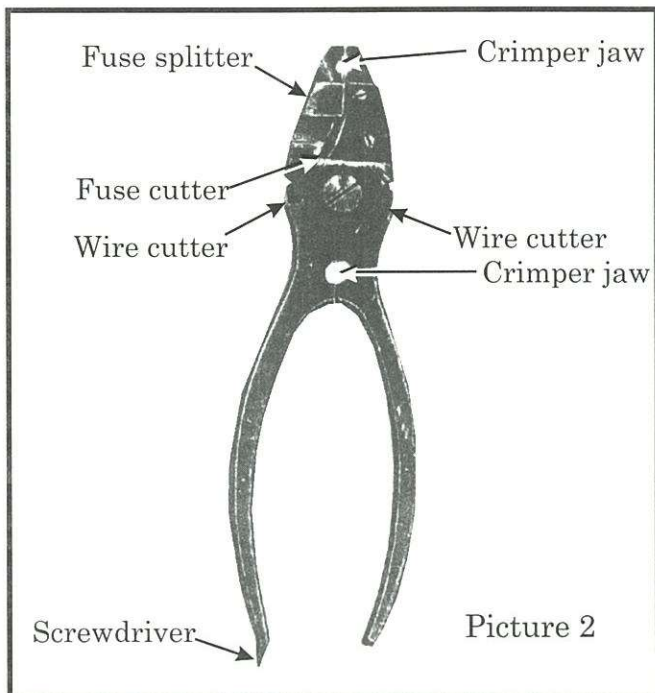


removed for sharpening or replacement. Judging by the workmanship in this tool, it was not one that every miner had, as it was probably costly.

2. This is also a set of Italian crimpers, and are very close in construction to set #4. This set has a fuse cutter in the front set of jaws, and a compression type ring crimper in the rear set of jaws. This crimper has an adjustable thumb screw that functions as a stop and regulates the depth of the crimp. These crimpers were used commercially and by the military, and date to the WWI era. The name RUBINO is stamped into one of the handles, and this is thought to be the manufacturer.

3. An all brass set of Italian made crimpers, which only have a single function, produce a sleeve type crimp, which was probably not water tight. Although functional, they are crudely cast, and joined together with a rivet, with one handle being tapered at the tip to act as a cap well punch.

The name LUCIANO SORLINI is cast into one half of the crimper around the rivet, with the opposite side reading I.N.D. EXPLO. I have been told that Sorlini is an Italian explosive manufacturer. This pair of crimpers is currently available to the Italian market.



4. This pair of Italian crimpers is similar to number 2, but made of heavier steel and they have a better finish. The jaws are the same, and a compression type ring crimp is made by the crimper jaw. These crimpers are marked FAT, which is a military arms factory in Ternt, Italy but, crimpers of this type were also used in commercial operations. These crimpers date from the 1940's.

5. This set of crimpers is currently available and are produced by IBC in Germany. A similar set has been used by the Dutch military for many years, but they are marked Candidus KL. The tool makes a sleeve type crimp, and its doubtful if it is watertight, with a fuse cutter also incorporated into the tool. These crimpers are for the blasting industry, and do not have a military application in Germany. The tool is of heavy construction and finished very

nicely. There is a flat on one handle that could be used as a pry bar, but I don't think you would generate too much leverage.

6. This pair is marked BARTOOL, and was manufactured in Germany for Norway military usage. However, it is believed that the same type crimper was used by the German army in WW II. The crimper produces a compression type ring crimp, and has a fuse cutter directly below the crimper jaw, (note the half moon jaw). One handle of the tool has a pointed copper insert for use as a cap well punch, and the other handle has a ring for attaching a lanyard. This tool shows its military origin as it is crude, not finished well, but gets the job done.

These are just a few of the interesting crimpers from the collection, but I'm still fascinated by the ol' bold blaster who did the crimping process with his teeth. Those warnings about not using teeth for crimping found on old cap tins are not written there just to generate a few laughs. If you're doing any non electric ALWAYS use a set of GOOD cap crimpers.

## Gypsyfoot Enterprises, Inc.

### *Specialists in Paper Americana*

We issue 3 to 4 mail bid catalogues per year which always include many mining stocks, maps, checks, letterheads, photos, scrip and occasional hard goods, as well as hundreds of other items of Western Americana and misc. paper ephemera.

☛ Send \$4 for next extensive ☛  
illustrated catalogue.

### Gypsyfoot Enterprises, Inc.

P.O. Box 5833, Helena, MT 59604  
(406) 449-8076 – FAX (406) 443-8514  
email: Gypsyfoot@aol.com