

# TC 9-56

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TRAINING CIRCULAR

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## SKS RIFLE

### SIMONOV TYPE 56

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OCTOBER 1969

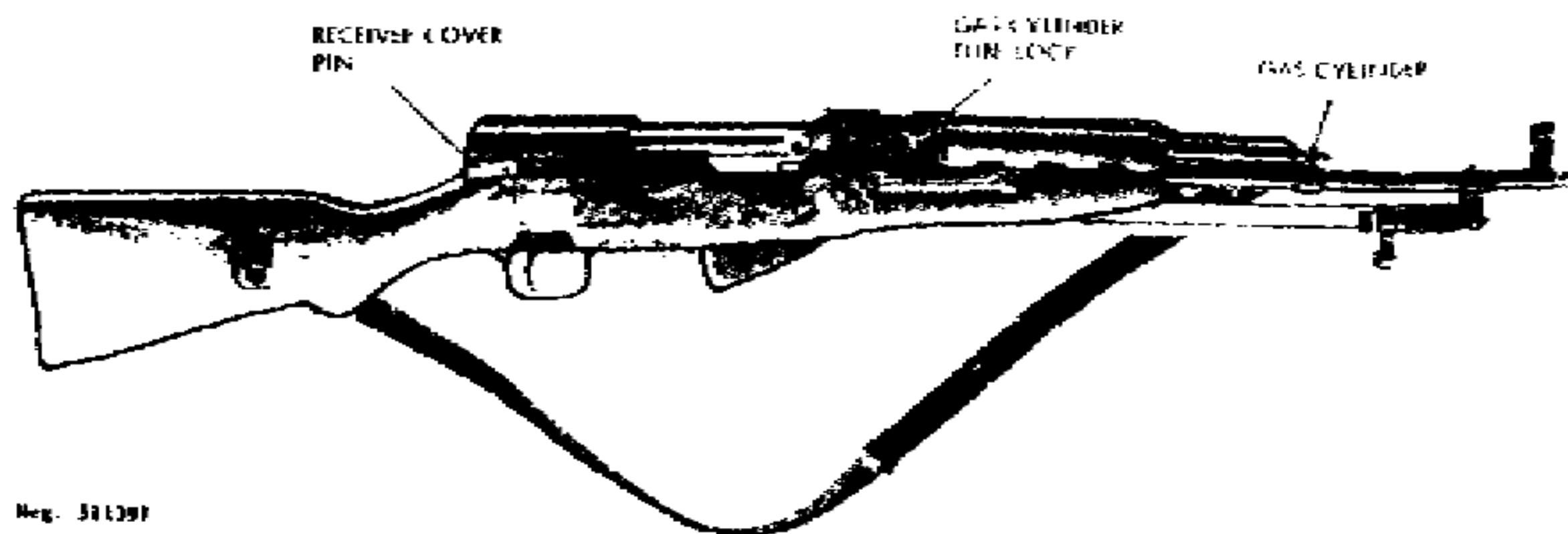


Fig. 311397

Figure 2 . East German Karabiner-S.

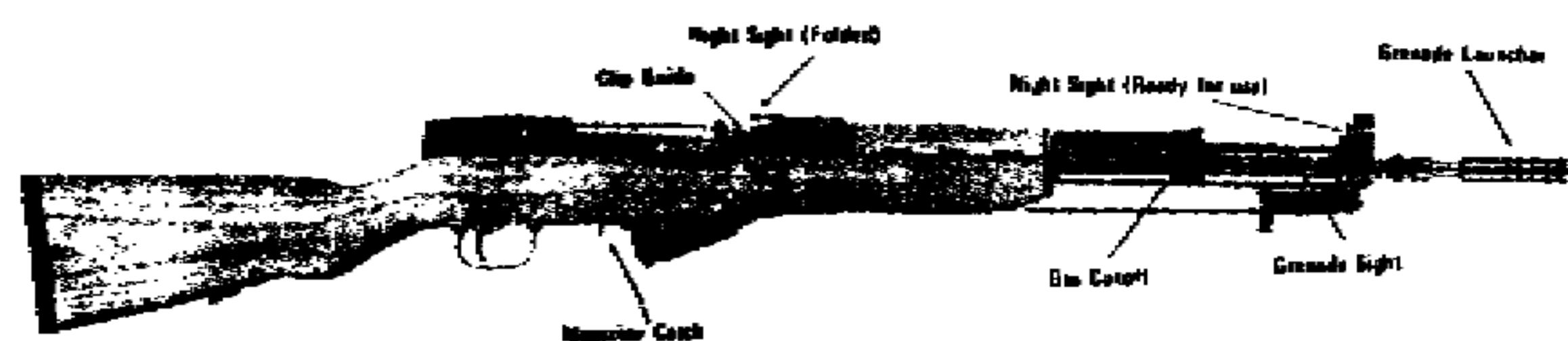


Fig. 511398

Figure 3 . Yugoslav M59/66 rifle.

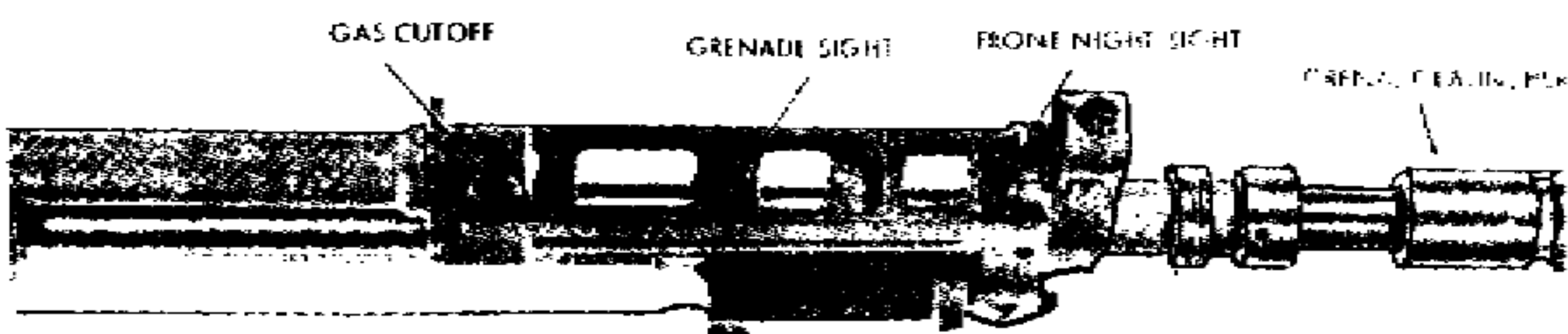


Fig. 111399

Figure 4 . M59/66 gas cutoff.

### Technical Data

Technical data concerning the SKS carbine will be found in table II.

### Operation

a. Grasp the operating handle (fig 1 ), pull it fully to the rear, and release it. If the magazine is empty, the bolt will remain open. Insert a stripper clip into the clip guides at the top front of the bolt carrier, and with the thumb as close as possible to the base of the top cartridge, press the cartridges off the clip and into the magazine (fig 5 ). Remove the empty clip. If clipped

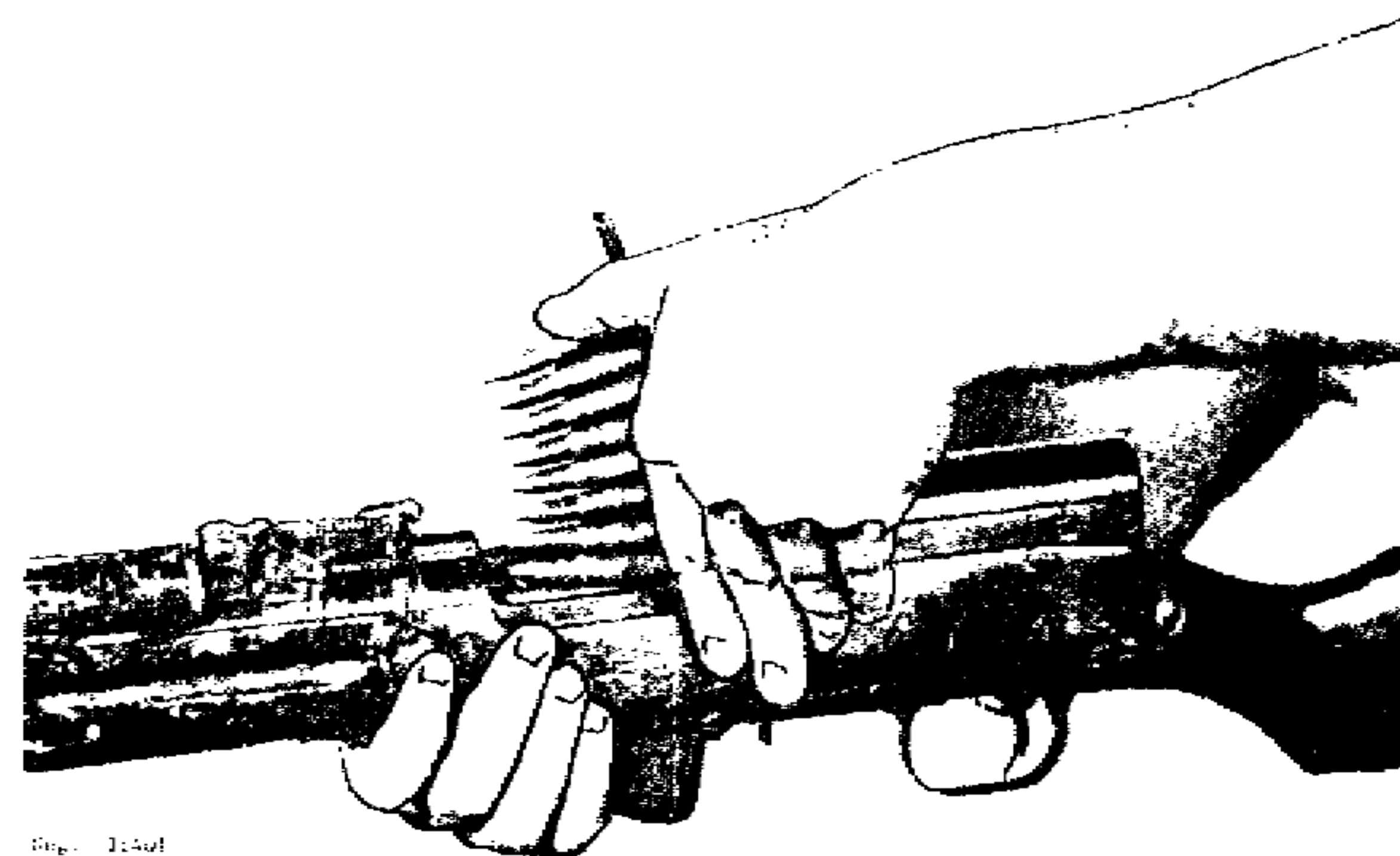


Fig. 11401

Figure 5 . Loading the SKS.

ammunition is not available, individual cartridges can be placed on top of the magazine follower and pressed down into the magazine until it is full. Pull operating handle rearward and release it; the bolt will run forward and chamber a cartridge.

**CAUTION:** The rifle is now ready to fire!

- b. If the rifle is not to be fired immediately, apply the safety (fig 1 ) by rotating it forward and upward.
- c. Set the rear sight for the desired range by depressing the slide catch (fig 1 ) and moving the sight bar along the leaf until the front edge of the bar is aligned with the line below the number that corresponds to the range in hundreds of meters. The first character on the sight leaf is a battle sight setting that is used in combat, for shooting at ranges up to 300 meters. The Yugoslav M59/66 has fold-down luminous sights (fig 3 ) for use when firing under poor light conditions; flip these up for use.
- d. The front sight is adjustable for zero.
- e. To fire the weapon, rotate the safety rearward until it is parallel to the trigger; then aim, using a normal sight picture, and press the trigger. The SKS will fire one shot and reload itself; when the last round has been fired, the bolt will remain open. (The gas cutoff of the Yugoslav M59/66 must be turned to the right for the rifle to function. Press the gas cutoff button (fig 4 ) down and swing to the right).
- f. To unload or clear the SKS, apply the safety, then pull back the magazine catch (fig 3 ) and allow the magazine to swing open. Remove all cartridges and close the magazine. Grasp the operating handle, pull it fully rearward to eject any cartridge that might have been in the chamber, and release the handle; the bolt will remain open. Inspect to insure that no cartridges remain in the magazine, barrel, or receiver. Close the bolt, either by opening the magazine again and pulling rearward on the operating handle and releasing it, or by pressing the magazine platform down slightly and pulling the operating handle rearward and releasing it. Move the safety to the ready position, press the trigger and apply the safety.

g. The SKS bayonet is affixed by forcing the hilt to the rear (against spring pressure) and swinging the bayonet forward until it locks to the muzzle. This action is reversed to fold the bayonet in its stowed position.

h. The Yugoslav M49/56 can launch rifle grenades. The grenades must have tail booms of 22-mm inside diameter and if at all possible, only Yugoslav-made grenades should be launched. Prior to firing grenades, clear the rifle and cut off the gas mechanism by pressing in the lock (fig 4 ) and rotating it to the top of the gas cylinder. Lift the grenade sight to its vertical position. Pull the operating handle rearward until it is caught open and insert a grenade launching cartridge into the chamber. (Note: These cartridges are packed in the tail booms of the Yugoslav grenades.) Under no circumstances can a bulleted cartridge be used; to do so will cause the grenade to explode on the launcher. Depress the follower and while holding it down pull the operating handle rearward then ease it forward. Tap the operating handle forward to insure that the bolt locked. Slide the appropriate type grenade fully onto the launcher. To launch the grenade, move the safety to the fire position, align the appropriate range arc (fig 6 ) with the ogive (largest diameter) of the grenade and then align the sight and grenade on the target. Press the trigger.

i. Prior to firing successive rounds, the operating handle must be smartly drawn rearward to eject the fired cartridge case. Prior to firing bulleted rounds, fold the grenade sight rearward, press in the lock (fig 6 ) and rotate it to the right as far as possible.

### Disassembly and Assembly

- a. To disassemble the SKS carbine: