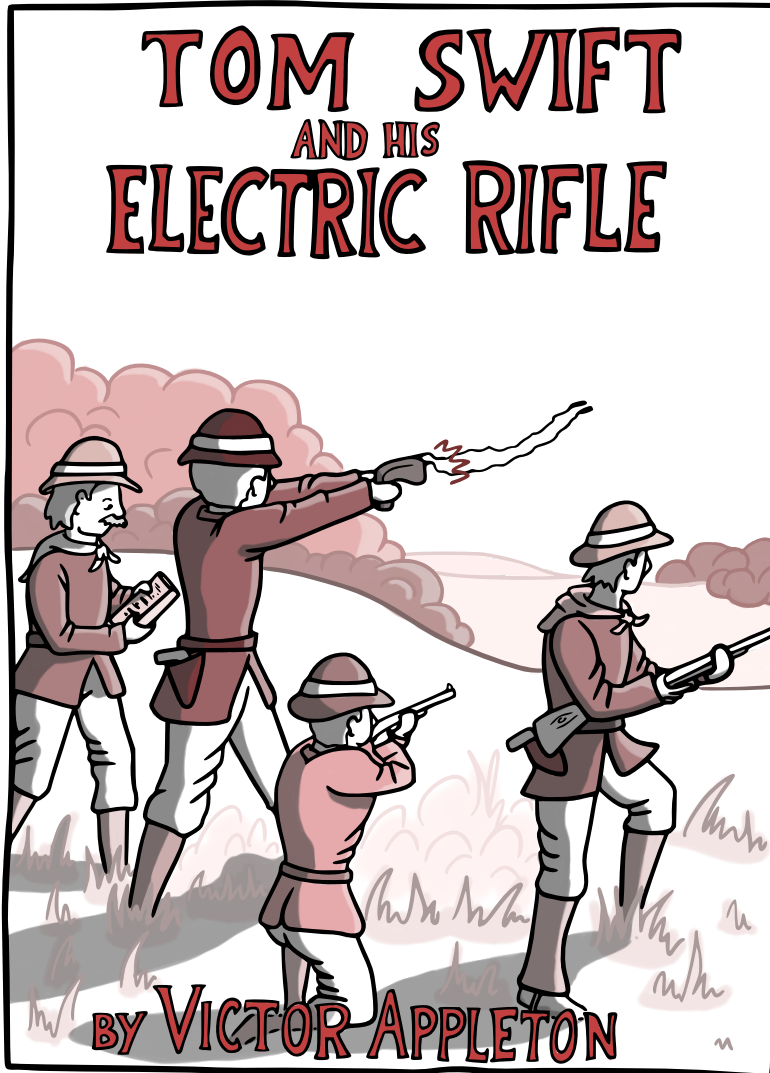


FACT OF THE DAY #4

THE TASER WAS NAMED AFTER A CHILDREN'S NOVEL



The TASER, invented in 1974 by ex-NASA physicist Jack Cover, is a weapon that fires electrified darts into a target, incapacitating them using an electric current. It was inspired by reports of a man who survived an encounter with an electric fence, but the device owes its name to one of Cover's favourite childhood books, "Tom Swift and His Electric Rifle", in which the enterprising and inventive protagonist, Tom Swift, uses his electric rifle to hunt elephants in Africa. Cover named his gun using the acronym of the book's title, TSEER. Later on it was changed to TASER because he "got sick of answering the phone TSEER". The TASER in its modern form has even made an appearance in recent Tom Swift fan fiction novels, in titles such as "Tom Swift and the Space Battering Ram" (Hudson and Levesque, 2013), and "Tom Swift and the AntiInferno Suppressor" (Victor Appleton II, 2013).

DR JONES