

U.S.

# MARTIAL ARMS Collector

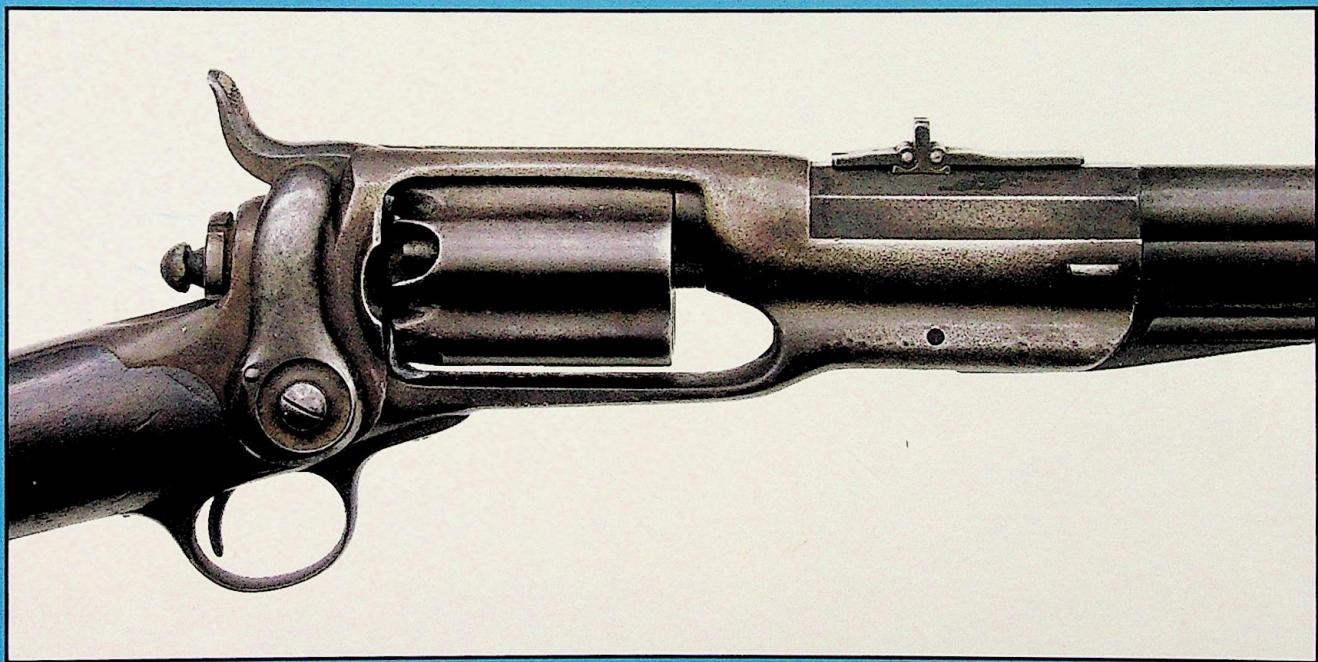
and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



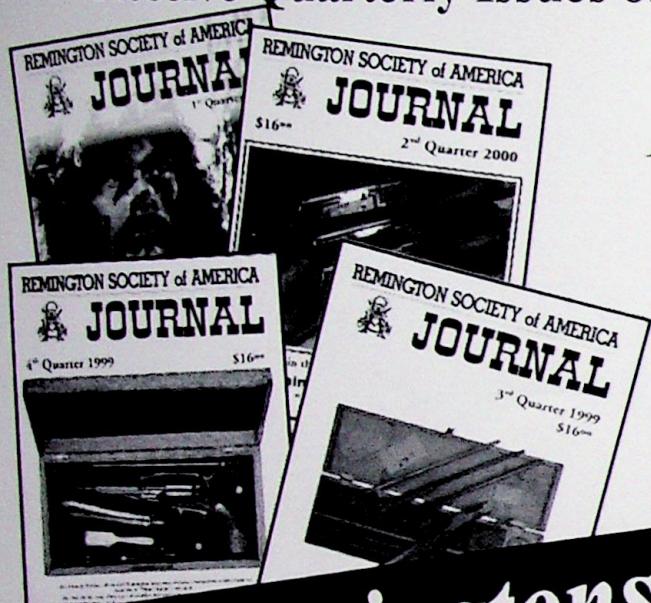
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Number 126 March 2011

\$9.00



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U.S.  
MARTIAL  
ARMS  
COLLECTOR

CIRCULATION MANAGER

*Wayne P. Gagner*

A quarterly publication of U.S. Martial Arms  
Collector Magazine and Springfield Research  
Newsletter, P.O. Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818.  
Printed in U.S.A. Send changes of addresses and all  
other material to this address.

Subscription price \$35 per year, including First Class  
postage. **Foreign Subscriptions** \$45 per year.

E-Mail: [editor@usmartialarmscollector](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector)  
Web site: [usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com)

ADVERTISING: Collector cards or arms-related  
business cards: \$ 100 per year. Commercial  
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**Cover:** Martial Colt Revolving Rifle

*And*

*Springfield  
Research Service  
Newsletter*

Number 126

March 2011

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## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

We have been watching the latest Second Amendment Rights discussions that have been discussed and debated by several lawyers, key advocates on both sides, and legal scholars in the Washington, D.C. area. The program was developed and produced by the Cato Institute and aired on television in January 2011.

*(Supreme Court Held: 1. The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home. Pp. 2-53. No. 07-290 District of Columbia et al V. Heller June 26, 2008)*

There have been many issues concerning this topic and the overall message is that Americans have a personal right to own and bear arms. As arguments now drift to debates concerning rights of states to enact "reasonable" controls and state laws", many changes may happen.

Extensive discussions now include the Heller case and cases in Chicago, and Supreme Court findings. It appears that discussions on The Right To Bear Arms, the Constitution, State laws, Federal laws, and court decisions are very active and subject to continual debate. There are many issues now presented, that try alternate ideas and directions.

The Supreme Court has stated that an American can have a weapon in his or her home. This really is a contentious item and the writings in the constitution do not detail a home. Different homes and mobile homes may now come into play. Legal ideas and civil action concerning American Citizens will be talked about

and stated in many different ways in the United States. Many people can bring up temporary, mobile or other words to modify the word home. It will not end in the near future.

It appears that most people that are anti-gun ownership, are now resolved that a militia has nothing to do with the Second Amendment Right.

The Supreme Court has said it is an individual right, but some opposed to the highest court's decision now want to enact many arguments to modify the Justices' decision and findings. Many debates will continue to discuss the ability of a State or other government to determine the mental status of an individual to purchase a weapon. As a topic of immense interest, this debate will lead to potential new Supreme Court cases, and legal proceedings will be in the news, with political discussions and national debate.

The international issues within some countries appear to be headed into discussions that all arms should be under international control. This opens other discussions as to treaties that have some wording that would try to counter several American Constitutional rights. Many other countries have very strict laws that do not allow private ownership or have military dictatorships that only allow the military to own weapons. It appears there are also many individuals that agree with those international positions. Some Americans also believe this is the correct thing to be imposed on U.S. law. Along with this trait, there is a potential funding of the

international idea by some wealthy U.S. residents. Upcoming elections may have results one way or another at all levels of local, state and federal campaigns.

There are over 300 million people in the United States and we are all equal, with a great Constitution. There are many Americans that will be affected by any new decision and we all should be well read and educated on this subject.

### ***Current Arms Market***

We are in an unknown period of price and demand that will always be subject to change. The market includes gun shows and auctions as well as private sales and gun shops. These provides the vehicles for the transfer of standard and fine weapons.

All have their own individual traits and all can change for many reasons. The largest areas seems to be gun shows and auctions that have a great interest but also vary by size and quality.

The one big issue that is continually brought up is the quality of the weapon and its authenticity. There is a never-ending supply of active collectors that seek their own items of interest. There are many people that have extensive funds regardless of current economic conditions. Many collectors will seek out and buy quite a few weapons if the items are completely original. They will shy away from any alteration, even to the last screw. There appears to be a very active market for the large auction houses that stand behind their sales and return policies with

solid histories. This also is true of many individuals and dealers. Prices are significantly lower for altered and restored weapons and higher for factory original weapons. The exceptions are always the very rare items that are scarce and in great demand.

SRS is finding more data on rare weapons and we are writing more research letters. The research continues with good results but we are continually behind and have long lead times on many items. Working with the U.S. Archives and military units is more difficult and requires much more time and effort. Research is now in units of days and not hours. Without exact locations it is impossible to find a document.

There are some cases where the original documents are still in boxes that have many single pages stacked together. A major problem comes about as one tries to remove a tight stack of pages and they crumble due to age. Our immediate reaction is to leave well enough alone and return the box to the Archive personnel. They cannot be used and will be spoiled forever and no research can be done.

It is hopeful that the government personnel will use restoration techniques but this is a guess at best. The personnel, their interest, management and budgets may dictate the overall policy and workloads. We are afraid someone after us will check out those documents in question, and may not care about the documents. If they try to use or separate them, that will be the end of any examination and it will end in a crumpled mess.

A single page may be associated with a great deal of information but may lose critical information with corresponding serial numbers and valuable information.

There are many documents in this condition as well as misplaced or vanished data. The size of records resources is very large and an effort to convert would require big efforts requiring heavy budgets. At this time, it is a problem with no easy solution.

### ***Subscriptions***

**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.** The Washington, D.C. area has been under constant weather and power problems that may have affected computer systems.

Power has been lost several times, and we are afraid that subscriber listing may have problems.

**PLEASE LOOK AT THE NUMBER AFTER YOUR NAME. IT IS THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE EXPIRATION DATE.**

This current issue is number 126 dated March 2011. As an example, the number 126 after a name would show that this would be the last issue for the subscription. Each delivery envelope is marked with the number after the name. We send out letters when your subscription is due, but there may be an omission or mistake caused by the power outages. Please look and make sure your expiration is correct and contact us if you

notice a mistake.

SRS will convert, at some time, to an email notification for expiring subscriptions. We will also send letters out in the usual mail if desired. We will work on questions and any request.

The current year of 2011 will have issues 126, 127, 128, and 129.

Our advertising deadlines are: issue 126 - the last Friday in February 2011; 127 the last Friday of May; 128 the last Friday of August; and 129 the last Friday of November. We are fortunate in having short mailing times for delivery to our subscribers.

### ***Rare Weapons***

There have been many rare weapons showing up at gun shows and auction houses. Added to this is the discovery of historic weapons in collections and storage that can be and have been traced by serial number. SRS has received requests to check on firearms that turn out to be rare and can be verified by government documents. This trend is continuing and leads to more findings for the fortunate owners.

In addition, there is more clarification for items that are known to have documentation. Updated data can provide information on specifics unique to the weapon when it left the factory. This is also true of descriptions that do not list any special work or factory alterations.

The delivery of a weapon from the factory to a specific military unit may be enhanced by another document that shows the serial number and issue document to an individual unit member. There are still opportunities to find serial numbers used by units in the American Indian Wars, foreign wars, and world wars.

This is always restricted by policies at the time, used to describe the issue of a weapon.

We have recently researched and found a rifle that was originally a carbine. The carbine was involved in a famous battle, lost, and recovered. The military board gave precise information stating that the nearest ordnance could only restore it to a rifle as no correct carbine parts were available. It actually added to the battle history with data of its finding, personnel involved, history, dates, and current ownership. It was quite a find when all of the data was put together.

There are current owners of very unique weapons that worked on personal information and then had us review research that led to government documents describing very historic items. Many items with family data lead to very extensive histories and military usage. There are many weapons that have been retained by military units and reissued to another unit at a later time. This is true of some weapons used in more than one war. The total package provides a great history and very accurate data on upgrades, personnel and unit histories.

### ***Current Weapon Interest***

Most of our work has been in finding unique and limited production firearms. There have been many efforts to install, test, and put to trial new sights, modifications, and production changes. Usually the weapons are of great interest and in great demand. The hardest problem is making sure that the weapon is verified by serial number or precise photos. We have found many documented items with information and notes. They may be missing actual serial numbers. This is common as the military and the arsenals may only keep information on the unique test or operation, with precise numbers of weapons but no reference to serial numbers. A weapon may come very close to 100 % certainty but not be totally exact. This leads to specific examination, comparison with another known weapon, and other uncovered documentation. There are many rare prizes that are still uncovered.

### ***Springfield Research Letters***

We are writing letters for our subscribers and extensive research takes more time. We will continue and our back-up varies from month to month. A letter may take several months to complete. It is a matter of searching all available sources and relying on government personnel. One cannot order several different groups of documents and in most cases only a single group and can only look at one box at a time. We must wait in line for a time to address a new box and only look at it after the previous one is turned in.

We must wait for one of several "pull times" and in most cases just wait for the data.

**Basic letter**- This letter provides information from the SRS data base that was compiled over many years of research. This letter will include information on a weapon and its use, such as military unit, date, and possible secondary information. It will not include specific data on names or combat. That data requires us to travel and perform research through extensive visits at government facilities.

**Research letter** -This letter requires travel to government facilities and research of government records. It takes a minimum of one day of analysis and most often 2 days. We can only do a limited number of research letters per year. The more valuable weapons require this type of effort. All of our searches are done by serial number. There is no way to do any other procedure without many days of searching. Completion of the search is based on time and availability to visit the government facilities as well as their regulations. Additional data will be listed on our web as it becomes available.  
[usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com).

#### **Comments and inputs**

We are always interested in receiving photos via the internet for rare or unique weapons. We continue to add many more photos for our research and data base. It is an asset for the U.S. Martial Arms Magazine and SRS Newsletter.

Please send inquiries and questions to:

[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com)

An inquiry can be made by mail to SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818. This may take an extended time to look up the number and send a letter by mail.

#### **Springfield Research Service Data Base**

We are still exploring all ideas on managing the data base and providing service to our subscribers. On-line service is still an option. We have received many inputs and are always interested in your inputs.

**SRS and US Martial Arms Collector Web site is: [usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com)**

All of our products are only available to our subscribers and are mailed from:  
**U.S. Martial Arms Collector Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.**

**Back issues of the U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazines.**

The older newsletters (number 1 through 54) must be made by special request from **U.S. Martial Arms Collector Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.**

#### **Krag Rifle Story**

Original new (1999 updated) editions with serial numbers are available for \$ 100 postpaid. They are limited in number and are below costs posted by many book dealers.

### **SRS Letters & Costs**

Basic letter \$ 50. Research letter \$ 175. (requires more than one day of travel, access to government facility and research). We are now accepting research orders for the current 2011 year.

### **Cover**

The cover photo is a fine martially marked Colt Revolving Rifle that was used in the Civil War. *Courtesy: Jack Lewis*

### **Data on Books**

All SRS manuals are copies of original government documents. We are still behind in this area. Past issues of the US Martial Arms Collector (MAC) can be ordered for \$ 10 each postpaid. This will be in response to subscribers that email a request for articles in issues 55 through present. Some issues are available as copies only. All manuals and documents will be copies of U.S. government documents.

### **Letters Received and Answered**

I am now the proud owner of 1903 Springfield model T # 1314411 and would like to get an SRS letter.

*We have data on that rifle. It is an original Springfield Armory Model T. Please order the basic letter and it will be sent out as soon as finished. Editor.*

### **Springfield Research Service:**

My M1903 rifle, an "NRA Sporter", was bought in January 26, 1934, through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship by my Great Grandfather, from Etna, Pennsylvania. He was the father to my maternal Grandmother, He died in 1973, and was known to us kids in the family as simply "Bup". I was wondering where I could get official documentation on my rifle, if it existed, and I was directed to you---"The Gatekeeper of all Model 1903 Knowledge." How do I go about getting any information, whether specific or more generalized, about my Great Grandfather's rifle? I understand there are handwritten "index cards" for all the DCM/NRA rifles that contain the information listed above.

Can I get a copy of that card for my rifle?

*We have data on your rifle and can provide a letter with owner's information and other details. Editor*

Dear Sir: Is it possible to buy the book, The Krag Rifle Story. Thank you very much for taking the time to answer my question.

*Subscribers may buy the book, as long as our supply lasts, for \$100. Editor.*

editor@usmartialarmscollector.com  
Colt Woodsman Match Target Pistol,  
#MT15579,  
Hi Wayne,  
Do you have anything on the above U.S. Property marked pistol? I am a subscriber to your magazine. Thank you.

*Sorry, we do not have data on those Colt pistols.*

*The Army has many serial numbers that they will not release. Also, as a civilian gun, there may not be any records.*  
*Thanks, Editor*

To Editor US Martial Arms. I want to find the origine of my rifle. krag 6.5x55. 1916 serial#9326.

*Sorry, your rifle was made in Norway and we do not have any records. We have information on U.S. weapons only.*  
*Thanks, Editor.*

Do you have serial number books with the numbers on U.S. Martial Arms? Prices. Thanks.

*Sorry, the serial number books are no longer available. Editor.*

What is the cost for old issues of your publication? I am interested in #119, specifically the article on sporterized 1903s. Thank you.

*Subscribers may order any back issue for \$10 each. We are running out of some issues and can provide copies. Editor.*

Looking for a copy of "Summary of D.C.M. Rifle Sales 1922-1942", by Frank Mallory. Is this available to members?

*Sorry, it is no longer available. Editor.*

Hello,  
I am trying to find some information / documentation on a Remington Rand 1911-A1 that has association to a WWII USAAF retired Colonel. Can you please give me direction on where/how I can find documentation, shipping records, service records, etc....Thank You Very Much.

*Thanks for the email. Sorry, we do not*

*have any record for that pistol. Editor.*

Some years ago I was told that there is a listing of all Springfield .45-70's by serial number and to whom they were issued. Would you be able to let me know how I can verify one '73 Carbine?

*SRS has many serial numbers but not all numbers. There are gaps in the records. We would not be able to find data on your carbine. Thanks, Editor.*

I am a book dealer, Do you still have serial number books for sale. Please send price.

*Serial number books are no longer available. Editor.*

Any info available on a COLT 1860 Army serial # 31311? It is an early "4 screw" model. Thanks.

*Sorry, no data on that revolver. Editor.*

Gentlemen, I need to verify that a Springfield M1877 Trapdoor carbine is listed as a Carbine, and that I don't have a cutdown rifle. I'm looking for a specific listing of serial numbers. I understand that to access such information I need to be a subscriber. That's OK, I always wondered how you could afford to do the research and generate the data base. I do not want books of numbers, if it is available online count me in and please provide information on how to subscribe. Regards,

*Thanks, took a lot of time and still not completed. Editor.*

*(Note: some inquiries printed with spelling as received).*

***Guns Lettered during this period***

Colt Model 1903 Military Pistol serial number 567429, cal.32. 1910.

Issued to Major General J S Gleason Jr. on August 15, 1967.

Colt Model 1903 Military Pistol serial number 567886, cal.32.

Issued to Brigadier General D C Clayman.

Krag Model 1899 Carbine # 342712,  
Sold to Squadron A, New York National  
Guard.

U.S. Springfield 1903 Rifle, serial number 1,1317,745. (Sporting Model) Captain G. H. Stuts, F. A. Ft Francis E. Warren, Wyoming.

U.S. Springfield 1903 Rifle, serial number 1,401,251. State of Connecticut, c/o The Adjutant General, State Arsenal Armory, Hartford, Conn. June 6, 1933.

U.S. Springfield 1903 Rifle, serial number 1 481 755. National Match, caliber 30, issued to the Engineer Rifle Team, 1937 National Matches on September 9, 1937.

Smith and Wesson Revolver Serial # 1137 American Model, delivered on March 1871 from Springfield Armory.

Colt Model 1903 Pistol serial number 568413, please be advised that the records of the U.S. Ordnance Department contain the data shown below on this arm. Issued to Brigadier General D.K. Edwards, on March 17, 1967.

Springfield Model 1903 Rifle, serial number 32 was loaned from the U.S. Armory Museum at Springfield, Massachusetts to the U.S. Land and Irrigation Exposition, Chicago, Illinois in 1910. This exhibit included 20 weapons as part of a State Department, War Department and Chief of Ordnance approved program.

Springfield Model 1903 Rifle, serial number 1 366 757,  
Sold to a civilian through the DCM program.  
1903 Sporting Rifle, NRA Type, August 22, 1933.

Springfield Model 1898 Krag Rifle serial number 99710  
Company D 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.  
June 22, 1898.

Model 1873 Carbine. Caliber .45.  
U. S. 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Board of Survey Ft Totten  
March 21, 1877.

U.S. Model 1894 Rifle, caliber 30, serial number 7,  
Shipped To: Savage Arms Company (on Loan)  
September 1, 1894.  
Returned to Springfield Armory July 28, 1899.

*(Some letters are presented with data and spelling from U.S. documents.)*

## KRAG RIFLE NUMBER 8661

Courtesy Mr. Nick Ferris.

Rifle owned and used by  
LT. WM. RAY HARRISON  
Born: Date: 8 June 1866  
Place: York, Nebraska

Education: Graduate of High School and Grammar School, Buffalo, New York. In 1894 and 1896 respectively he received LL.B. and LL.M. degrees at National University in Washington, D.C. The legal training no doubt facilitated his assignment to various legal matters later during commissioned service in the Philippines.

Description: During Army service he was described as of fair complexion, 5 ft 8 1/2 inches tall, dark brown hair, blue eyes.

Enlisted: 15 April 1884, in Company C, 23<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry, at Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX. He was transferred to the Hospital Corps 8 September 1887 at Fort Porter, apparently because of frequent illness.

Mustered out: 14 April 1889, at Fort Porter, New York. "Honorable discharged" from his 5 year obligation by Captain L. M. Maus, Assistant Surgeon, USA. Later, as an officer, he was entitled to ten percent longevity pay for his 5 years of service.

Upon discharge from enlisted service in April 1889 Harrison moved to Fernandina, Nassau Co., Florida. His occupation there was listed as gauge keeper. On 20 June 1890 Harrison applied for a pension. The official declaration stated "That he is now wholly disabled from obtaining his subsistence by manual labor by reason of his injuries, above described, received in the service of the United States; and

therefore makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the invalid pension roll of the United States." The injuries "above described" were disease of lungs from exposure and hardships incident to army life during the winter of 1885 at Fort Porter, New York. He was dropped from the pension roll after his last \$12 payment to 9 May 1898 "because of re-enlistment in the military service of the United States." It is interesting that army hardship wholly disabled Harrison, who was therefore granted a pension. That is, until his health improved to the point that he was commissioned second lieutenant.

Commissioned: "Mustered in" 10 May 1898, Second Lieutenant, in 1<sup>st</sup> District of Columbia Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Honorable mustered out "with regiment" 20 November 1898. Appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 47<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regiment U.S.V., Camp Meade, PA 22, August 1899, with rank from 17 August 1899.

Promotion: Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 14 July 1900 per War Dept. cable in recognition of his conspicuous gallantry during the bolo attack 6 February 1900 at Daraga and assigned to Company H, 47<sup>th</sup> Inf., Legaspi, P.I. However, there was some unspecified snag with the promotion.

Harrison was recommended again in October of 1900 by his regimental commander, Colonel Walter Howe. Meanwhile, various records refer to him as a second lieutenant, and as a first lieutenant (e.g., the headquarters of his own 47<sup>th</sup> regiment as late as 27 November 1900).

The Official Army Register of 1907 indicates his promotion was on 6 July 1900. A cablegram from Washington dated 23 January 1901 states "2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Harrison, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry, U. S. Volunteers, promoted." The second endorsement transmitting the news to the commanding officer of the 47<sup>th</sup> is dated 13 February 1901 (!), however a letter requiring Harrison to wire his acceptance, dated 25 January 1901, was received 1 February. Harrison's status therefore was not entirely clarified until February 1901.

Combat: The fight with the bolo men at Daraga, is described thus: "...about 1 a.m. Feby 6 – 1900, a desperate effort was made to come over the wall by a horde bolo men two of them succeeded in reaching the center of the yard and severely cut Lt Harrison before being killed. In recommending him for brevet promotion his commanding officer said the night attack was made by a greatly superior force, and that Harrison was cut on both arms in a hand to hand encounter with bolo men. Medical comments were that the cuts were quite severe. Harrison returned to duty 22 February. Records indicate that the cuts to both forearms were severe. Other medical problems during Harrison's service in the Philippine Insurrection were bronchitis, constipation, and malaria.

#### Commissioned Service:

1. Recruiting Officer in Baltimore, MD and in Leesburg, VA 25 August 1899 to 12 September 1899.
2. Suffered bolo knife cuts on both arms during night attack by "bolo men" 6 February 1900. Recommended by regiment commander to be brevet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. for his conspicuous gallantry.

3. Commanded Company I, 47 Inf., 7 May to 7 August 1900, Legaspi, P.I.
4. Commanded Co. H, 47 Inf. U.S.V., 23 Aug. 1900 to 24 Oct. 1900, Legaspie, P.I. (Philippine Islands).
5. Provost Judge at Sorsogon, P.I., 13 December 1900 to 29 December 1900.
6. Inspector of Customs at Sorsogon, and
7. Collector of Internal Revenue 29 December 1900 to 29 April 1901.
8. From 1899 to 1901 Harrison was involved with several courts martial cases, either as a witness or counsel for the accused. No doubt he was qualified for this work because of his legal training at National University in 1894 and 1896.

In March 1901 he requested to be relieved of his duties at Sorsogon so he could return with his regiment to the U.S. and be examined for a lieutenancy in the regular U.S. Army. Medical records dated 29 June 1901 indicate he was found to have no disabilities, although his wounds from the fight at Daraga were noted. According to Heitman's Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, and the Official Army Register of 1907, Harrison was honorably mustered out 2 July 1901, and became a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant in the artillery corps 22 August 1901, so his request for a commission in the regular army was granted.

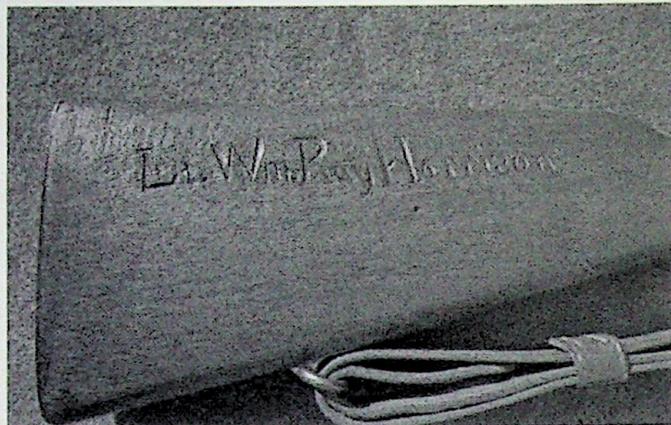
His address at Muster Out: Falls Church, VA.

No information concerning his artillery career is available from the National Archives. However, "Retirements in the Military Services of the United States, 1903 – 1946", contains a pen-and-ink entry in the Officers of Artillery section stating that William R. Harrison retired as a captain 25 January, 1907. This is verified in the 1907 and 1909 editions of the Official Army Register. The 1909 edition notes that the cause of his retirement was "Disability in line of duty due to wound received in action..." The nature and date of the wound are not given; possibly it was from the fight at Daraga in the Philippines although he was found to have no medical disabilities in June 1901.

An effort was made to find out what the Army had done with Harrison's M1892 Krag rifle, serial number 9881. Had it been stolen, purchased, presented, scrapped – what?

The Unique Item Tracking Team at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama stated that no record of the rifle exists there, and the Army's Information Technology Division at Redstone Arsenal stated that there are no records pertaining to M1892 rifle 9881. Archival sources seem to have records of personnel but not of equipment.

While the National Archives provided much pertinent information, The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania provided key information not available from NARA.



Lt. Harrison's name carved in the stock. It is believed that Lt. Harrison bought the rifle and carved his name on it.

Sales were permitted during this era.

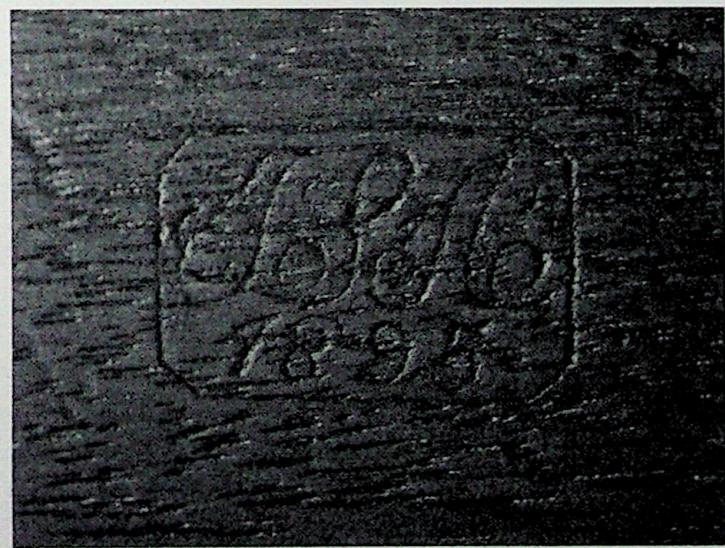
This rifle is illustrated two times in the Springfield Research Service book "The Krag Rifle Story" by Franklin Mallory.



The left side of receiver shows the number 9881. The final digit is heavily struck in the original finish.



The Harrison Krag has an excellent 1895 Cartouche. They are rare to find in this condition.



## Colt 1911 U.S. Navy

The 1911 Pistol shown is an excellent example of a 1915 production Colt military weapon. The blued finish is excellent and the markings for the U.S. Navy are perfect. The Colt pistol was adopted by the Army on March 29, 1911 and named the M1911 (Model 1911). It was adopted by the Navy in 1913 and manufactured by Colt. The requirements for a firearm in World War I placed a large demand for existing and new manufactured Colt pistols.

Original pistols manufactured before 1916 were in great demand for the First World War and 1915 manufactured firearms are rare. The excellent 1915 handgun made for the U.S. Navy and marked U.S. Navy is shown with all original parts and perfect original blue finish.

It should be noted that the finish, rear sight front sight, walnut grips, trigger, and other parts are perfect and original to the gun. This example is free of the external changes, completed in 1924. To find an original weapon with all of the finish and all original configuration is very rare.

The changes to the original design are minor but are major issues for collectors of original weapons. They consist of a shorter trigger, cutouts in the frame behind the trigger, an arched mainspring housing, a longer grip safety spur, a wider front sight, a shorter spur on the hammer, and a change in grip checkering. It takes a keen eye to see the differences in design changes. The basic operational features were maintained, and parts are interchangeable.





Serial number 109573 with military inspector markings with original lanyard loop and case hardened clip .

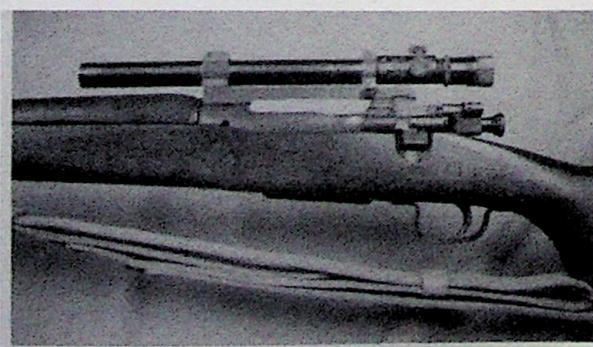


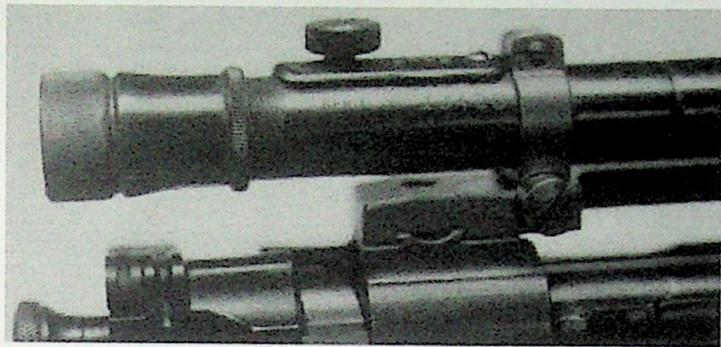
## 1903 A4 Sniper Rifle

The 1903A4 is a sniper upgrade of the World War 2 1903A3 rifle. It was developed to provide U.S. forces with a new production rifle suitable for heavy use and easy logistics for American forces. The current 1903A3 rifle was chosen as the base weapon and a series of tests were performed for scopes and mount systems. The M73B1 was standardized for the rifle. It had a history of being readily available based on the Weaver 330S commercial scope with Redfield mount and rings. There were other candidates including Weaver scopes such as the model 440 with a 4 power and the 330 with slotted scope adjustments. Various other manufactures were also tested and the U.S. Army chose the M73B1 Weaver 330S with external knob adjustments. The base and rings were Redfield one piece base mount with 3/4 inch rings. From the program start deliveries had differences in finishes and commercial components. It appears that there are differences in some of the earlier rifles. The rifle itself was a 1903A3 with parkerized barrel and receiver and blued bands, trigger guard, screws rear sight and fittings. The A4 rear sight was removed and drilled and tapped for the Redfield base. The base was modified to accept the rifle receiver machining for the rear sight. The front sight was eliminated. Marking and serial number of the A4 Remington rifles were moved to see the manufacturer marking and the serial number on the receiver ring. Stocks appear to be full pistol grip type and the scant style with alterations cut for the bolt handle. The 1903A4 has a relief cut in the receiver to accept the bolt that was modified with a low bolt handle and metal relieved to clear the scope and fit into the modified stock. The rifle proved to be a success and follow on models were used for the Korean War and

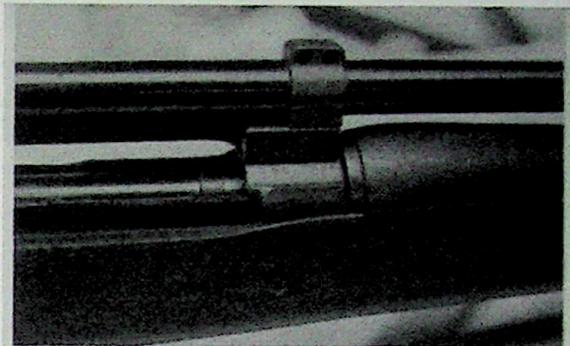
Viet Nam. There were several modifications with other scopes, finishes and scope mounts and rings. It was used in addition to M1 Garands and other sniper rifles. There are many writings and descriptions that add more data to 1903A4 rifles. Its long history has lead to differences and a great interest by collectors. An interesting item is the scope. The Army shipped rifles without the scope and stored them without the scope attached. As such, it is a rarity to find the single original scope that was used for the weapon. It is fortune that the original scope is now on a rifle. The rifle shown is rare instance with the original combination of scope and rifle. It was bought from the U.S. Army at a base where it was held after World War II. The veteran that bought the rifle had permission and all of the government approvals and paperwork. The serial Number is 3,417,686 and 13428 is on the scope.

There are variations including approximately 100 made at Springfield using 1903A3 rifles with M84 scopes and A3 markings. Rifles were also made with 8 power Unertl scopes in Korea. Many different scopes were used in Viet Nam and special operations.

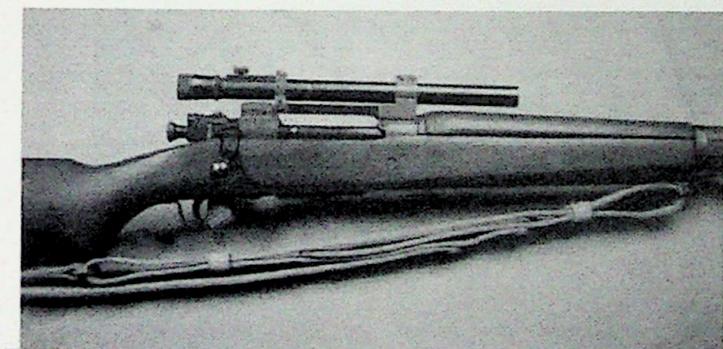




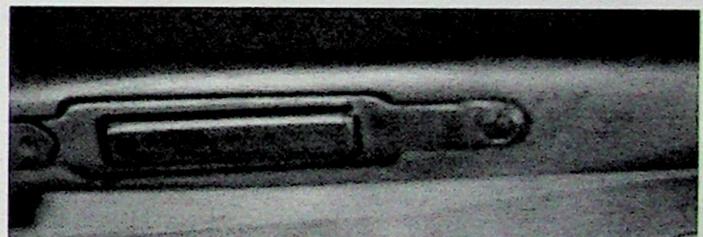
Scope number 23128



Serial number Remington 3417686



Right side with original sling



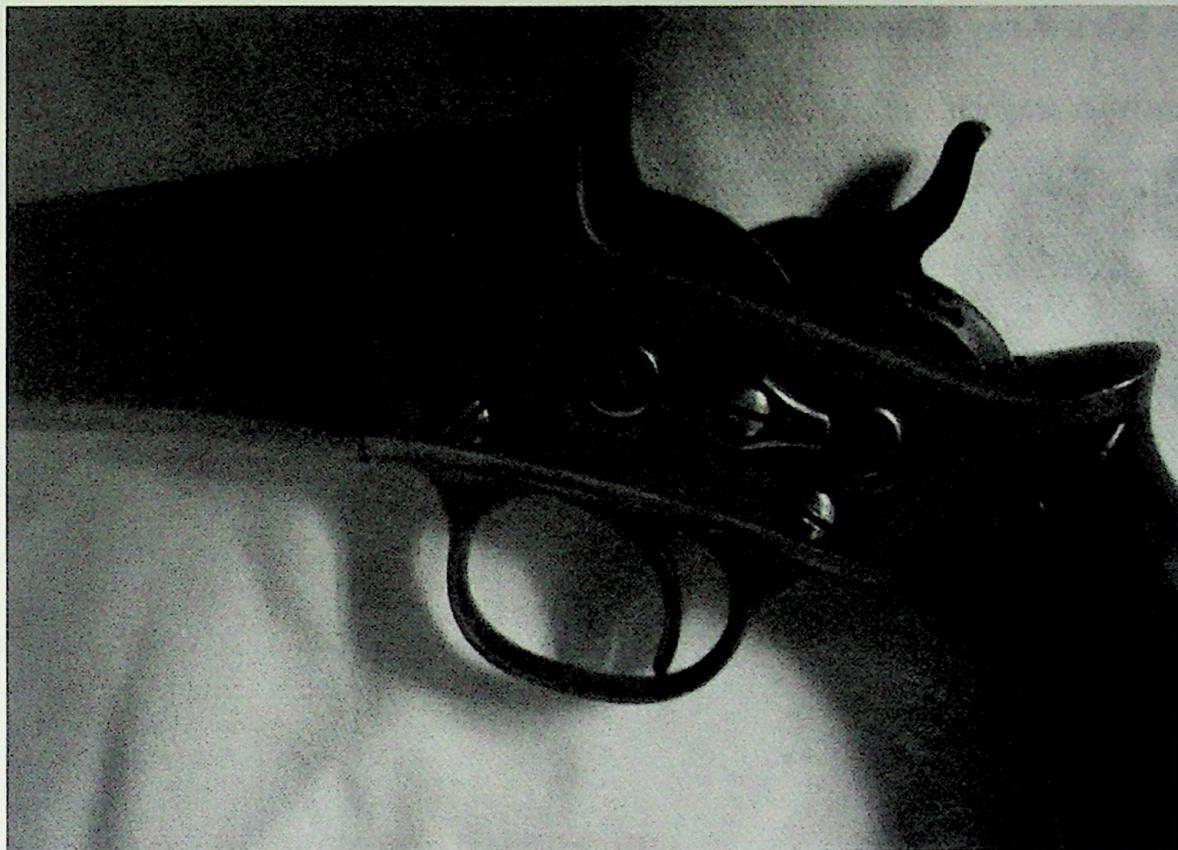
Bottom of stock Remington marks

## **Remington Model 1871 Army Rolling Block pistol.**

The pistol shown is a single shot .50 caliber cartridge pistol. Approximately 6000 Army pistols were made. They were designed from the Remington rolling block rifle actions, but smaller in size with the addition of a short barrel and pistol stock. The Army Model shown is partially marked and has an 8 inch barrel. They were serial numbered, and marked on the frame Remington Ilion, NY. USA/Pat. May 3 Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 1864 April 17<sup>th</sup> 1866. There were Inspector's marks and the guns were finished in blue with a color case hardened frame. Civilian models and a Navy model were also manufactured.

The Army shown has a fine finish and retains sharp markings on the wood grips.





The 1865 Navy pistol was made with a sheath trigger, an 8.5 inch barrel, and a front bead sight only. The .50 caliber rimfire cartridge was developed during the Civil War. The U.S. Navy purchased about 500 of the arms.

The 1867 Navy pistol had a trigger guard and was made in both .50 caliber center fire and rimfire. It had a 7 inch barrel. About 7000 were made for the Navy.

The 1871 Army pistol appears to be the final design. The trigger and trigger guard were positioned differently and there were upgraded designs for the firing pin, extractor, front sight and lock assembly.

The 1879 Army pistol with a sixteen inch half-octagon barrel and a detachable shoulder stock was tested.

The 1891 Target pistol and the 1901 Target model were also available in .22 rimfire, .25 Stevens rimfire, .32 S&W center-fire, .32 rimfire, .32-20 WCF, and other custom calibers.

Very few commercials were made but they continued until about 1914.

## Stokes Kirk Krag Reloading Kit

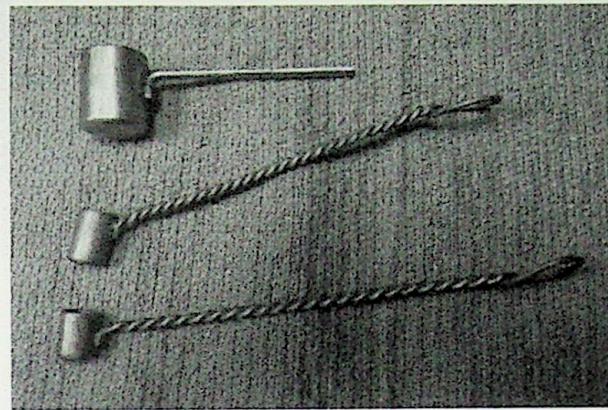
Courtesy Mike Raybon

Stokes Kirk was a large dealer in military weapons. The company bought large amounts of government surplus and also modified and build weapons for retail sales. Krags were a large part of sales as well as parts and accouterments.

They had stores in Philadelphia, PA as well as California facilities. A great deal of business was mail order.

A reloading kit was designed and sold by their store as well as many other shooting and military products.

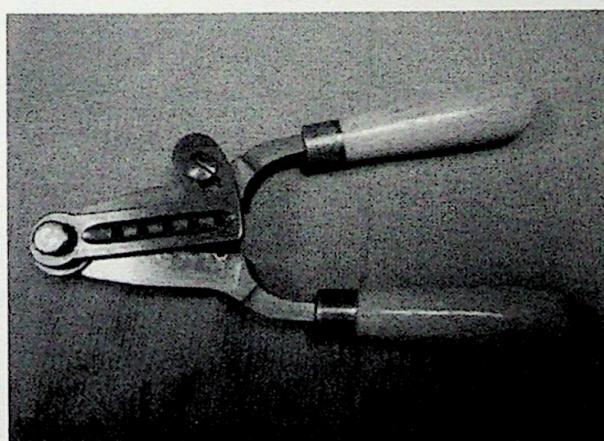




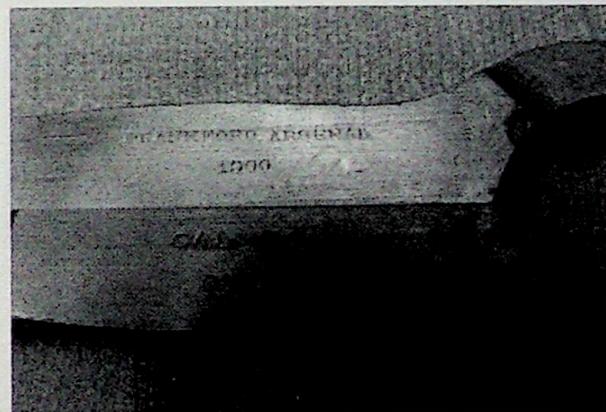
Powder Measure Tools



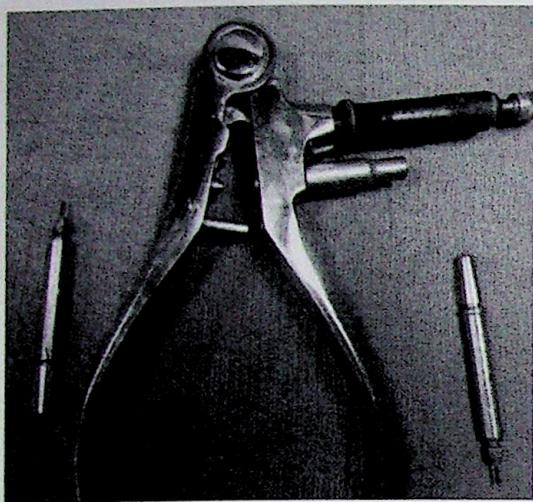
Case Neck Cleaner



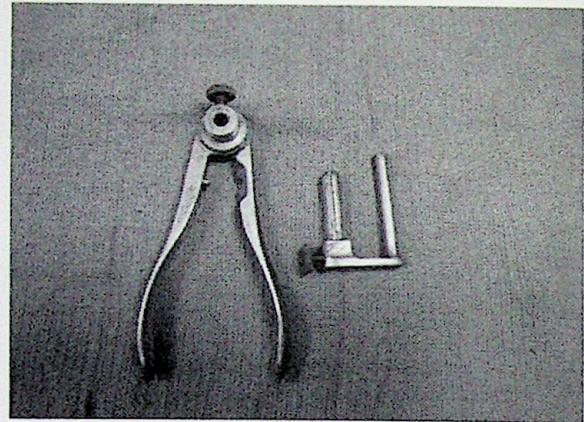
Bullet Mold



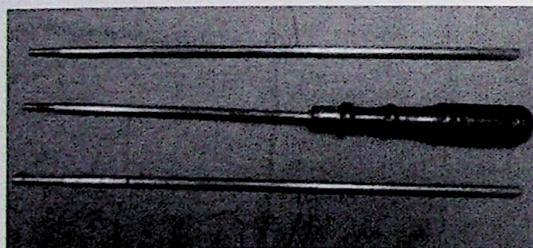
Bullet Mold Markings



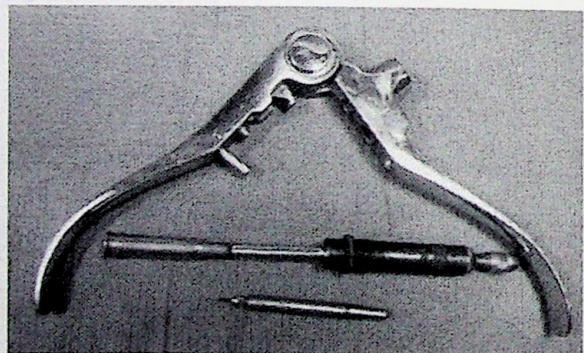
Primer Tool



Bullet Crimp Tool



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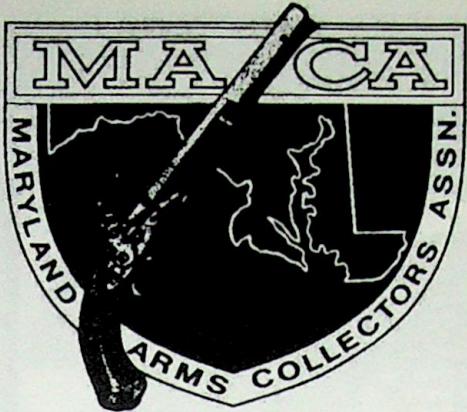
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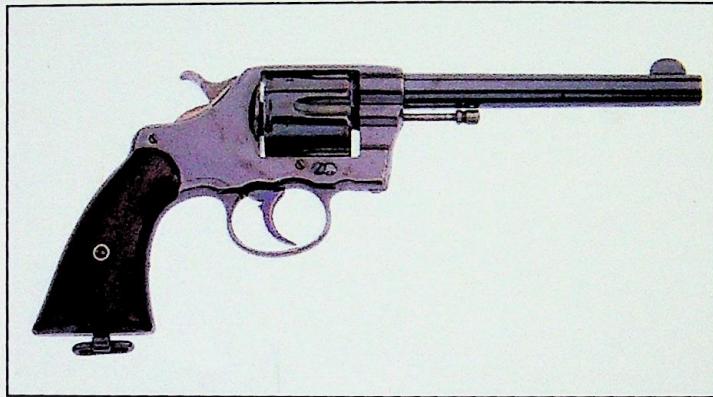
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