

Springfield Mass

January 1, 2025

John Doe
123 Main St
Doeville, ZZ
12345-6789

Dear Mr. Doe:

Smith & Wesson introduced the .45 Hand Ejector Model of 1917 in 1917 at the request of the United States government. It could fire the .45 ACP cartridge using a half-moon clip and the .45 Auto Rim cartridge.

This revolver was popular during World Wars I and II and was utilized by the United States and Allied forces. Between 1917 and 1919, Smith & Wesson delivered approximately 175,000 units to the United States government. These guns had "U.S. ARMY MODEL 1917" stamped on the frame and "UNITED STATES PROPERTY" stamped under the barrel. The bottom of the barrel and the rear of the cylinder were stamped "S" for Colonel Gilbert H. Stewart, Inspector. Smith & Wesson also employed assistant inspectors whose inspection marks had a number following the "S" (e.g.: "S1," "S2," "S9," etc.).

In June 1917, the United States Government nationalized Smith & Wesson and made it part of the Springfield Armory, and they remained under the control of the United States Government until the end of World War I in 1919.

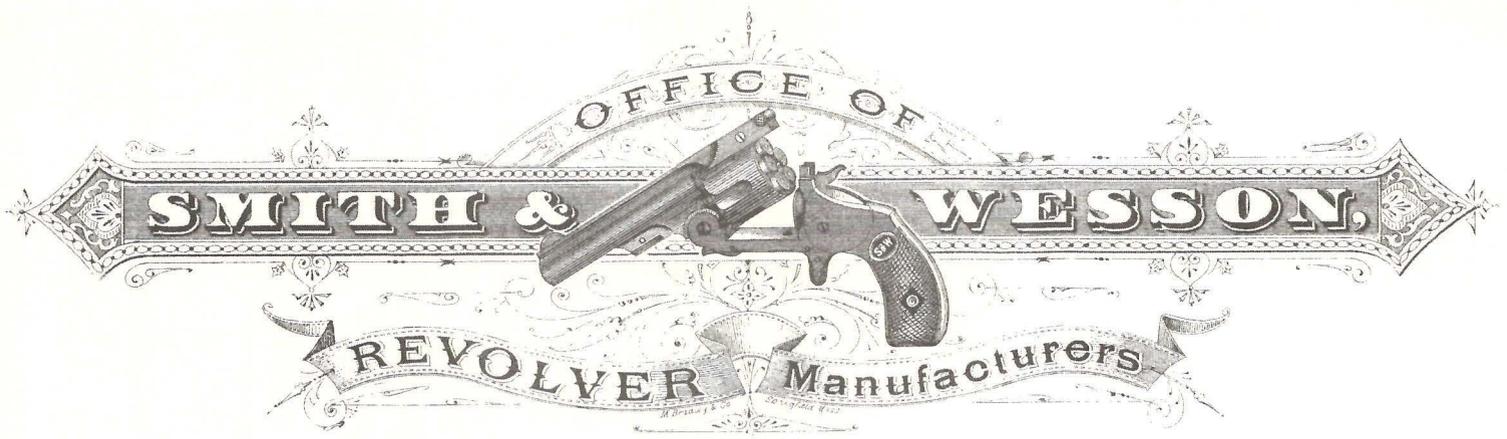
In 1919, Smith & Wesson was still marking some of the revolvers with some of the Springfield Armory inspector's marks in a hastened effort to get commercial production started after the end of the war.

Smith & Wesson signed a contract with the Brazilian government in 1937 for 25,000 Model of 1917 revolvers. These were stamped on the side plate with the Brazilian seal and the 1937 contract date and purchased with Brazilian funds.

This revolver remained popular after World War I and was manufactured until 1946, with 210,866 units produced. Smith & Wesson commenced production of this revolver in October 1947 and added the new

A red handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly "JD", written in a cursive style.





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Smith & Wesson .45 Hand Ejector Model of 1917

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style hammer block. These postwar revolvers had an "S" serial number prefix, which was added at approximately S210321.

We have researched your Smith & Wesson .45 Hand Ejector Model of 1917, caliber .45 ACP revolver in company records. They indicate that Smith & Wesson shipped the revolver with serial number 100000 from its Stockbridge Street factory in Springfield, Massachusetts on August 22, 1918, and delivered it to the United States Armory at Springfield, Springfield, Massachusetts. Smith & Wesson configured this revolver in the standard military configuration with a 5 1/2-inch barrel, forged round-blade front sight, fixed notch rear sight, blued finish, lanyard ring, and plain walnut stocks fitted to a square-butt grip frame.

We trust that the information provided will be helpful and of interest to you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Michael Helms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Helms
S&W Historical Foundation
Historian and Secretary/Treasurer



SMITH & WESSON

99998 ⁴¹¹⁴	3392	9	7	18	U S GOVT
99999 ³⁷⁸⁴	3273	8	22	18	U S GOVT
100000 ³⁷²⁴	3273	8	22	18	U S GOVT