

THE HOWA M 1 MILITARY CARBINE

Doss White

In several past BANZAI issues articles have discussed the post-war (WW II) M 1 carbine manufactured by the Japanese firm HOWA (HOWA Jyuko in WW II and HOWA Machinery in post war years). Japanese .30 cal ammunition also has been discussed. This carbine was noted in the excellent reference on M 1 carbines by Larry Ruth. The few HOWA carbines that BANZAI members reported to own or have examined were the sporter version mentioned in Mr. Ruth's book.

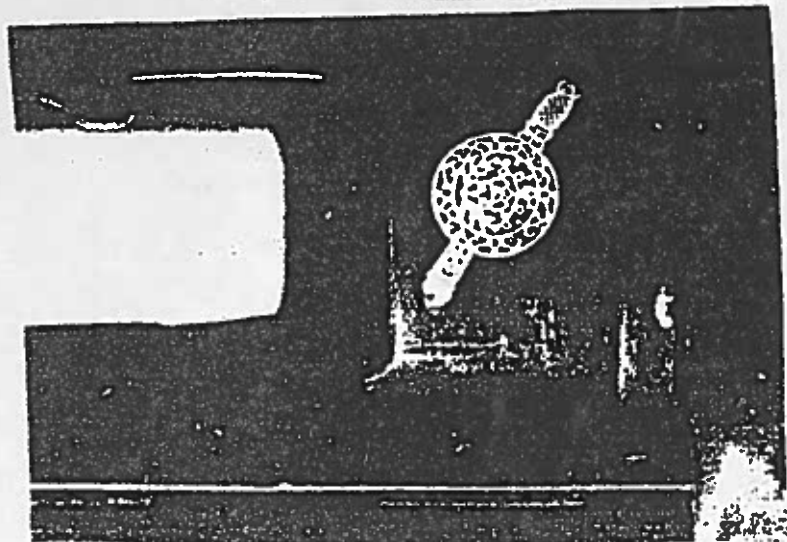
Recently I purchased what was advertised as a HOWA military version of the M 1 carbine. When it arrived I was surprised/dismayed at the "crest" which was like nothing Japanese that I have ever seen. The seller assured me that the carbine was a HOWA, but he could not supply a reference linking the crest (a stylized crown over laurel(?) branches inside two circles with a dagger hilt at the 10:00 o'clock position and the end of the scabbard at the 4:00 o'clock position). I contacted Mr. Ruth by telephone and described the carbine and crest. He completed the crest description and assured me that the carbine was indeed a Japanese weapon made by Howa.

My carbine is serial number 06669, he had examined, photographed one other HOWA, serial number 08935. I sent 06669 to Mr. Ruth for his examination and he noted the following differences in the two Japanese carbines.

	<u>06669</u>	<u>08935</u>
Stock	Winchester M2.	"Foreign wood", design identical to U.S. M2
Handguard	National Postal Meter.	"Same as stock"
Barrel	Underwood.	"Believed to be made by HOWA and marked HP.
Bayonet lug.	HOWA	HOWA
Front Sight	U.S. Military.	"Believed to be made by HOWA.
Rear Sight	HOWA?	HOWA.
Receiver	HOWA.	HOWA.

Mr Ruth states in his letter (2/4/95) "I have no idea whether 06669 wa restocked and rebarreled after it left Japan or if HOWA made their first carbines using U.S. military parts... I tend to believe the latter because of the bayonet lug and over all color of the metal components, but why a used stock?"

The receiver and logo are shown on the next page. More detailed information, Mr Ruth's worksheets, on the two carbines will appear in The Military Rifle Journal. If any BANZAIte would like copies of Mr. Ruths's letter and these worksheets send a large SASE and a dollar for reproduction costs. As more information is learned on these interesting Japanese weapons it will be reported in BANZAI.



HOWA MILITARY M 1 CARBINE LOGO

JAPANESE MACHINE GUN PURCHASE

Since there appears to be some confusion on purchasing/owning a Japanese WW 2 or earlier automatic weapon we have this article. All Japanese mgs are on the Curio & Relic list and may be transferred to an individual with a C & R license. There are two classes of mgs, "live" and "dawat". A 'live' mg is one that functions, a dawat does not. Both MUST HAVE GOVERNMENT (BATF) 'REGISTRATION' PAPERS. It is impossible for an individual to register a previously unregistered gun. Ownership of such a weapon will get you a free ten year vacation and allow you to contribute \$10,000 to the U.S. treasury! An unregistered mg can be stripped for parts and the receiver destroyed or sectioned into three pieces with a cutting torch. The receiver could then be reassembled using bondo or some such material to make a 'non-gun.' This should be done with BATF approval as to avoid the free vacation noted above.

To purchase a mg you must live in a state where mg ownership is legal and you must have a police chief, sheriff who will ok the transfer. If you have both and are buying a "live" weapon you and the seller fill out, in duplicate, various lines on a BATF form. The buyer submits two fingerprint cards and attaches two pictures to the two forms. There is a \$200, one time, transfer tax on a "live" weapon. It is my understanding that the seller pays the tax and is reimbursed by the buyer.

A dawat transfer is the same as with a "live" transfer only there is no fee to pay. Ed Libby/Harris Opfer, have I skipped anything?

The gun may have also been produced in small quantities for issue to infantry troops or the cavalry, which was still in Soviet service in 1945. In any event, with the end of the war in Europe in early May of 1945, the need for further developments of the Mosin design were probably considered unnecessary and the project was dropped.

A logical model designation for this gun might be Model 1945, based on the production date, or Model 44 Long, or even Model 44 Dragoon, if it was lengthened for cavalry use. If it is actually a prototype, it may have also been called Experimental Model of 1945 or 1944.

Finally, if this process were done the way new species of plants and animals are named, where the discoverer is permitted to name the species, often vainly after themselves, this unusual Mosin would be "Johnston's Long Folding Bayonet Mosin of 1945." Yeah, I like that. I think I will hereby proclaim it as such. What would this be in Latin?

Everybody keep there eyes open and maybe some more of these will show up. Keep me posted.

JAPANESE M1 CARBINE RESEARCH

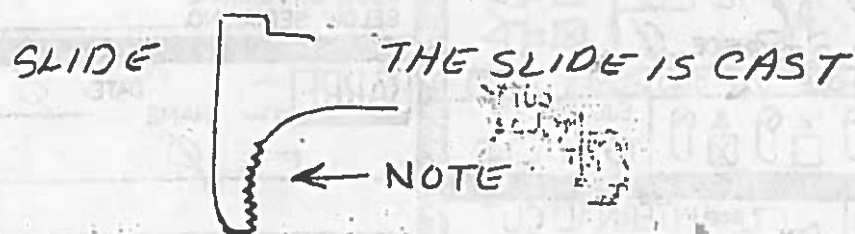
*Research by Larry Ruth
Introductory text by Doss White*

Following World War II, the small Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (GSDF) was armed with Arisakas and possibly U.S. M1 carbines and Garands. Sometime in the late 1940's or early 1950's Howa Machine Co. made a number (10,000 ?) of M1 carbine "copies" and a lesser number of a sporter version of the M1 carbine. It is reported that when these were surplused by the GSDF they were sold to Australia and countries in the "Far East". (During WW II the company, then known as Howa Jyuko, produced approximately 32,000 Type 99 Arisakas.)

While there is complete documentation on the Type\Model 64 select fire assault rifle little has been documented (in English) on the Japanese Howa M1 carbine.

Mr. Larry Ruth, the author of several books on the M1 carbine, is an expert on this weapon. In his many years of researching the M1 carbine he has only encountered two Japanese versions. An examination of these two suggests that initially the U.S. supplied parts until Howa and its contractors could furnish all components. Parts ID sheets and notes on the two Howa carbines examined by Mr. Ruth are reproduced on the next four pages.

ENTIRE CHROME (MILITARY) SEEMS TO BE COATED
WITH BLACK TEFLON...



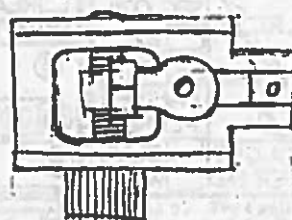
HAMMER IS CAST
HAMMER PIN IS EXTRA LONG ABOUT $\frac{3}{16}$ "
SEAR IS CAST

OILER IS IDENTICAL TO U.S. G.I. BUT IS UNMARKED

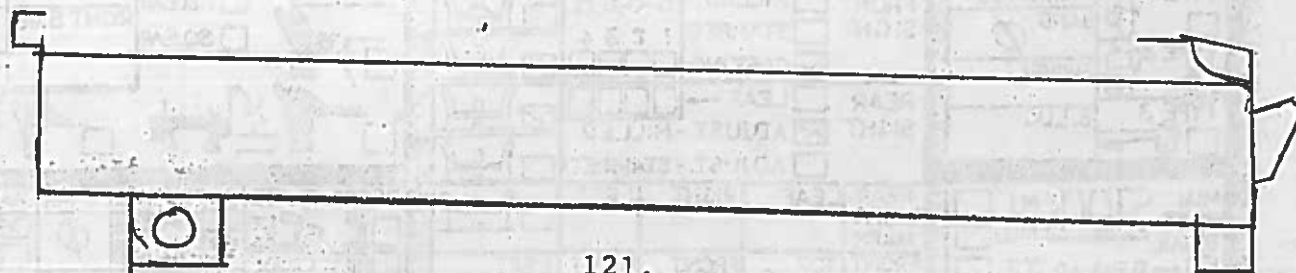
REAR SIGHT



SIDE VIEW



TOP VIEW



121.

RECEIVER LEFT SIDE - NO CUT

DATA SHEET

CARBINE REV. 10-23 FB

REPORTER: K. R. RUSTEN

ADDITIONAL DATA ON BACK

MANUFACTURER: HOWA

NAME ON RECEIVER

SERIAL NUMBER: 08935

CODE OR MARKING BELOW SERIAL NO.

BOLT: LEFT LUG, RIGHT LUG, OTHER

FLAT, ROUND, BLUED, PARK. EXTRACTOR MARKING

GAS PORT IN BOTTOM, FIRING PIN MARKING

SLIDE: CAM SHAPE, INTERNAL CUT

MARKING: INSIDE BOTTOM, LEFT SIDE

ARM JOINT: BEVEL, STEP, MZ

SLIDE STOP: EARLY, LATE

SLIDE BOX: ROUND, FLAT

TRIGGER HOUSING: REAR BEVEL, FRONT BEVEL

M1, M2, MILLED, STAMPED

TOP WIDTH: NARROW, WIDE

MARKINGS: LEFT SIDE, RIGHT SIDE

MAG CATCH: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

HAMMER: PARK, BLUED, NO FINISH

SAFETY: MK

SEAR: M1, M2, HOLE, NO HOLE

HAMMER SPRING RECESS, TRIGGER HOUSING LUG

BARREL BAND: TYPE 1, TYPE 2, TYPE 3

SIGHTS: FRONT, REAR

SIGHT PIN STAKING: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4

SHAPE FROM REAR

MI, MIAI, TUBULAR, SOLID

STOCK: M1, MIAI, T3, M2, M2-POTBELD

WOOD OVER, OILER SLOT

BARREL: NAME, DATE, MARKS

SIGHT KEY RETENTION, CHAMBER SKIRT

CHISEL MARK, MILLED NOTCH

OTHER MARKS: HP, ON THE FLAT, COLOR BLACK OXIDE

FRONT SIGHT KEY SHAPE

GAS CYLINDER: SEPARATE, INTEGRAL

RECEIVER

HANDGUARD LIP: SHORT, LONG

U.S. CARBINE CAL. 30

NOTCHES: FRONT ONLY, REAR ONLY, BOTH

MILL CUT: SQ, PD

OPERATING SPRING HOUSING REAR HOE: INTEGRAL, NO

IF DETACHABLE: TUBE SIDE LUG, NO SIDE

TUBE MARKS END: REC.V. HOLE FOR TUBE LUG

MARKING: LEFT SIDE, BOTTOM, RIGHT SIDE, OTHER, COLOR

LEFT REAR DETAIL

REAR DETAIL

RECOL. PLATE, BUTTPLATE

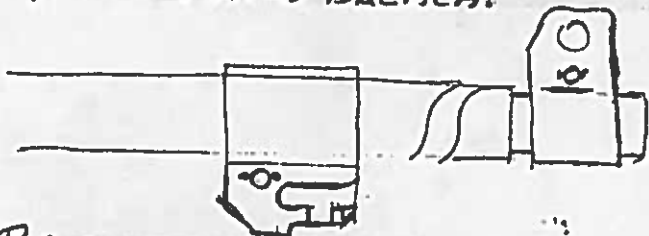
MILL CAS, MIAI, MK

HANDGUARD: SHALLOW, DEEP

SLING CUT, GRIP BASE, GRIP FRL, OTHER

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a reference or identification number.

BARREL: MARKED HP ON FLAT - MIDWAY BETWEEN GAS CYLINDER AND BREACH. NOTE NO CUTS!



BAYONET LUG IS SEPERATE AND "FIXED" ON THE BARREL

FRONT SIGHT - SIMILAR TO U.S. G.I., SLIGHTLY LARGER WINGS AND BLADE


REAR SIGHT IS ADJUSTABLE BUT A UNIQUE DESIGN.



GAS CYLINDER IS SWAGED, PISTON NUT



PISTON HAS A HOLE IN CENTER

EJECTOR IS MODIFIED 

* SLIDE BOX HAS A STEP AT THE RIGHT REAR

STOCK IS A LIGHT WIGHT, "WHITE" WOOD, STAINED RED (CAROVIA) COLOR - APPEARS TO BE IDENTICAL TO U.S. G.I.

HANDGUARD IS THE SAME - APPEARS TO BE IDENTICAL TO U.S. G.I. INCLUDING THE RIVETS

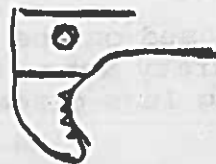
RECOIL PLATE SAME AS LATE U.S. G.I., CAST AND WELL MACHINED

RECOIL PLATE & GCHUN SAME AS U.S. G.I.

BUTT PLATE SQUARE PATTERN BUT NOT THE SAME AS U.S. G.I. PATTERNS

BUTT PLATE SCREW SAME AS U.S. G.I.

* SLIDE "HANDL" IS SEARATED



HAMMER PIN IS EXTRA LONG.
HAMMER IS CAST
SEAR IS CAST, N12

123.

PARTS APPEAR TO BE FINISHED IN BLACK OXIDE



GERMAN COMMISSION 88

Dolton G. Walker

With the introduction of the French 1886 "Lebel", a small bore smokeless powder rifle, the German high command issued a directive that a rifle be developed immediately which would counter the power of the Lebel. This task was assigned to the German Rifle Testing Commission at Spandau. (5) The commission decided to have personnel at the various German arsenals submit proposals for this new design. Of the designs submitted, the commission selected a receiver and bolt design credited to Louis Schlegelmilch; a modified Mannlicher designed clip magazine; and a metal sleeve that fit over the barrel which came from a previous proposal by firearms designer Armond Mieg. The selection of a cartridge came after much study by the commission. They choose an 8mm rimless cartridge that was based on the doctrine of the Swiss arms designer Eduard Rubin. (8) Since the outer diameter of the muzzle end of the barrel sleeve was the same as the outer diameter of the barrel of the M71 and M71/84 Mauser rifles, the M71 and M71/84 bayonets were retained for the Commission 88 rifle. During WWI various Ersatz model bayonets were also made and used. (2)

While most items designed by a commission/committee are not practical, nor meet the real needs for which they were intended, this rifle was a significant leap in rifle design and, for its day in history, exceptionally functional. It should be noted that the commission had the design completed, production implemented and the fielding process in place in two years. (2) Over 1,675,000 Commission 88s are believed to have been produced for the German military by the end of the production run in 1897. (8) Even after the introduction of the Mauser 98 the Commission 88 would be used in its original form, or in one of several modified versions, throughout various parts of the world through WWII and has been retained as war reserve weapons today. The Commission 88 design would also be the basis for numerous other military rifles that would be fielded up through WWII and can currently be found in some war reserve arsenals. Additionally, the cartridge design selected by the commission would turn into one of the worlds truly great military cartridges. (1)

The bolt design was based on the Mauser 71/84 bolt. The bolt body, cocking piece, and safety were retained but, similar to the Lebel, there were two locking lugs placed at the front of the bolt sleeve.

HOWA AUTOLOADING RIFLE MODEL 300

BRIEF HISTORY OF HOWA MACHINERY, LTD.

Our Company was established in February 1907 under the name of "The Toyoda Loom Works, Ltd." Since establishment, we have contributed very much towards the rapid progress of Japanese textile industry. We have not only supplied our products to practically every spinning-weaving mills in Japan but exported to many foreign countries. In 1954, technical collaboration agreement was negotiated between Textile Machinery Corporation Ltd. of India and our Company for the purpose of producing and installing in India TEXMACO-HOWA products produced by our plant. As additional expansion program, HOWA DO BRASIL S. A. - INDUSTRIA MECHANICA, San Paulo, was established in 1958 for meeting the demands of the Brazilian Government and industrial circles. Meanwhile, in 1945, our name was changed to "Howa Machinery, Ltd." in unison with our multiple management policies of manufacturing firearms, various pneumatic devices, civil engineering equipment, automobile com-

ponents, steel & iron products, etc. which accounts for roughly 50% of the total turnover.

Due to our experiences of manufacturing military rifles (Model 99 and Model Arisaka) during World War II under government contract, the post-war government licensed our organization as the exclusive manufacturer of rifles, carbines, automatic weapons, and mortars in Japan. Under this license, we have produced greater part of firearms requirement by Japan Self-Defense Forces.

Under such extensive background and experience, we take the pleasure in furnishing products of modern design and high efficiency developed from our latest technical knowledges for meeting the present-day demand.

Paid-up Capital - ¥ 1,300,000,000.00

HOWA MACHINERY, LTD.

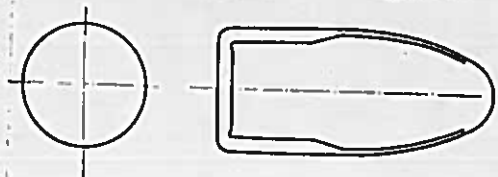
President N. Nozaki

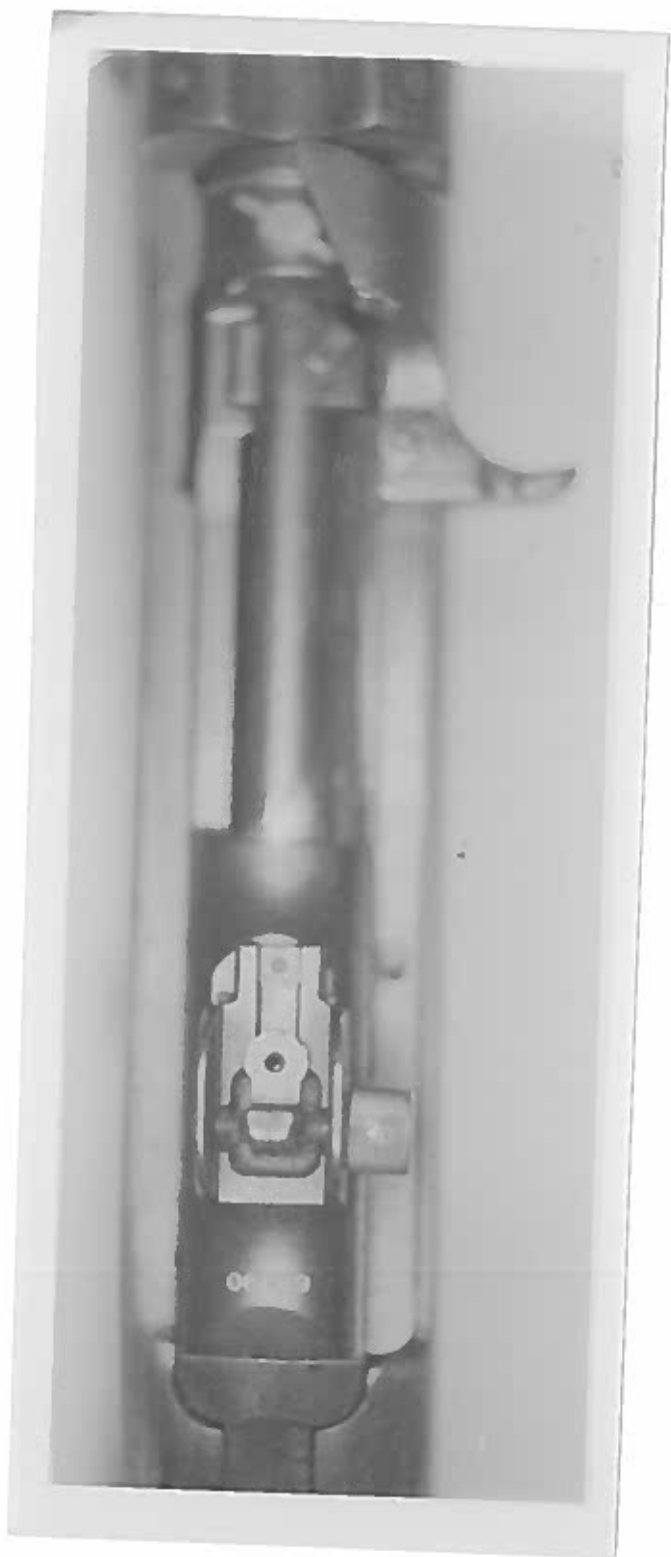
Corrugated
Butt-plate

.30 A.O.A. SOFT POINT CARTRIDGE

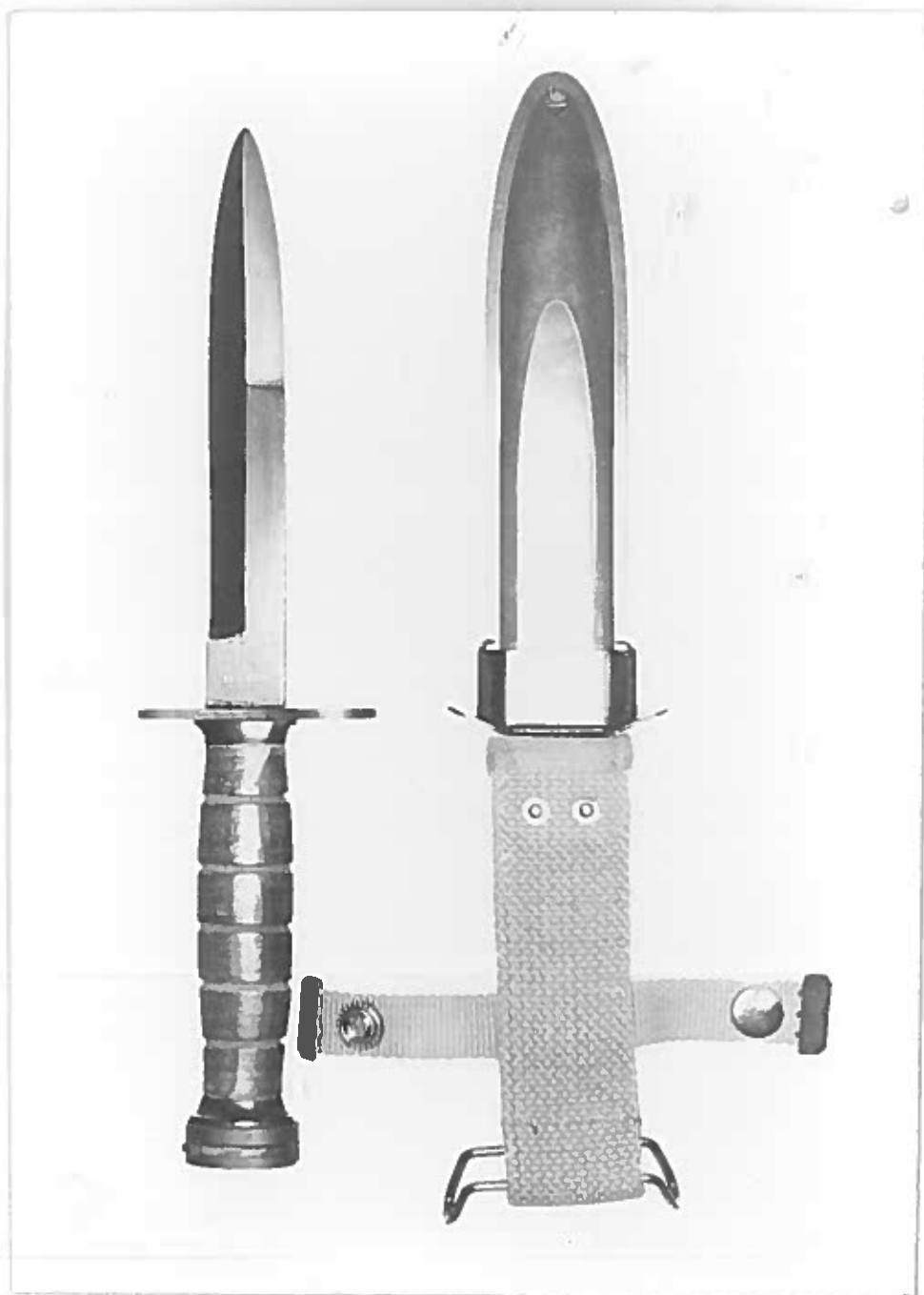
As cartridge for exclusive use in "Model 300", we adopted .30 A.O.A. Soft Point produced by Asahi Okuma Arms Co., Ltd., the largest and only manufacturer of small arms ammunition in Japan. With this cartridge, effective killing power and comfortable shooting may be enjoyed against middle sized games such as deer and bears.

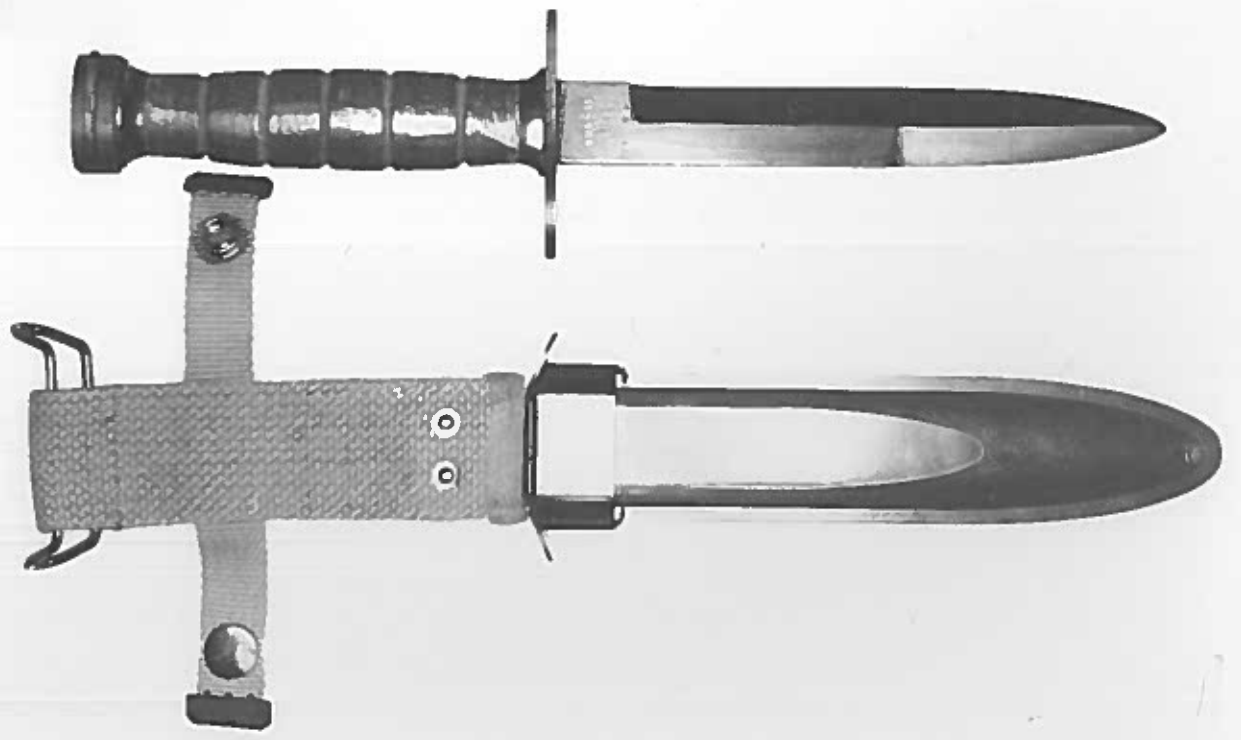
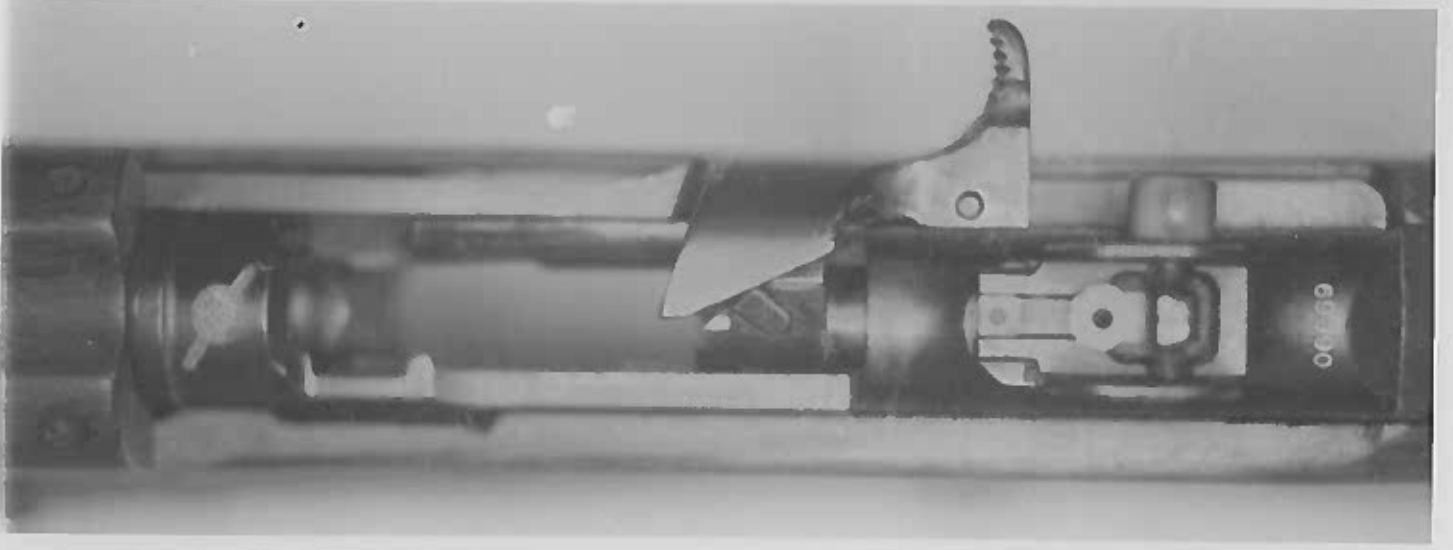
By virtue of powerful double-base powder and mushroomed expansion of the lead core upon hitting the animal, it always insures a sure kill. If clean bore prime is used, it will further insure that barrel bore will not corrode easily.



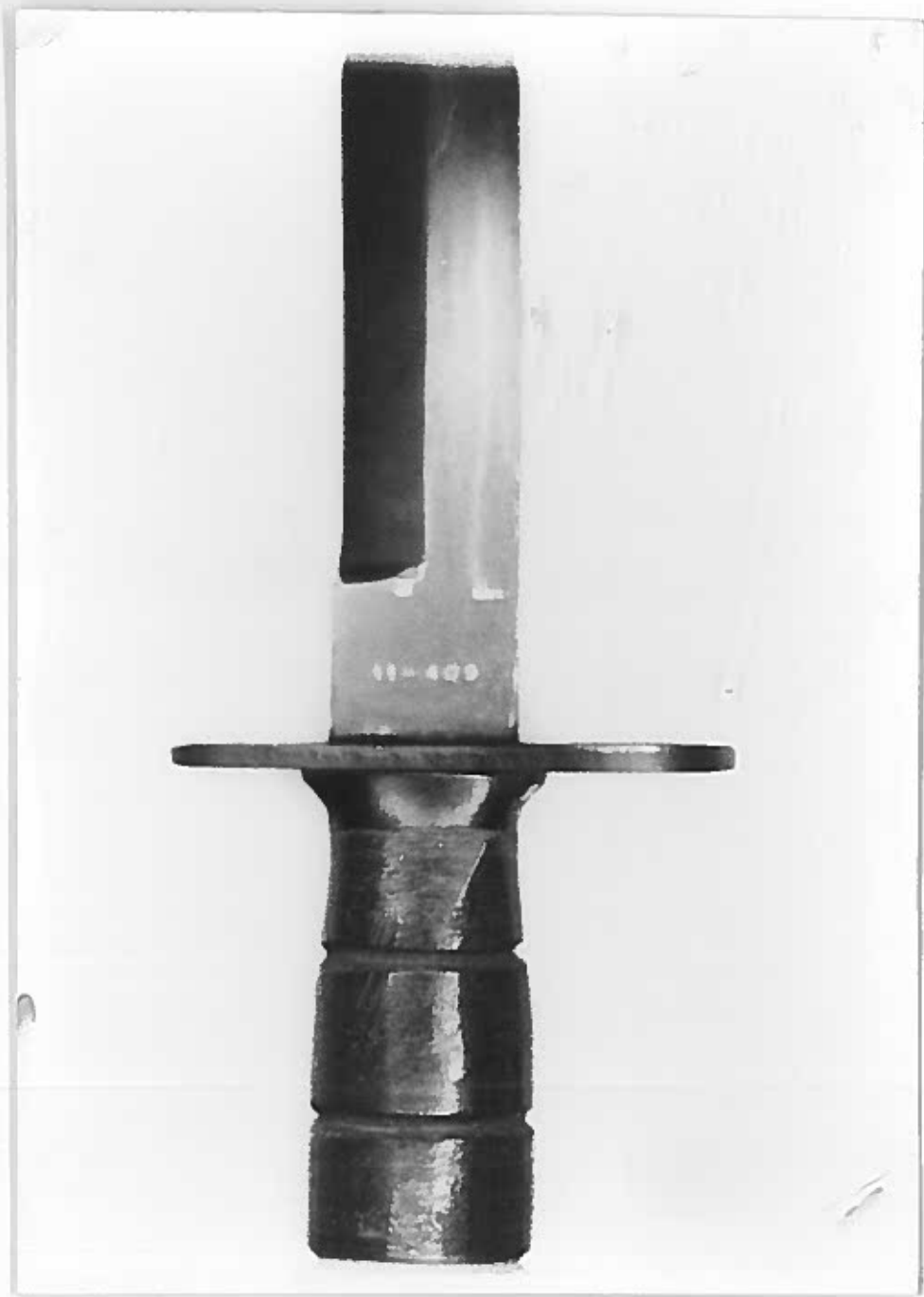












JAPANESE HOWA M1 CARBINE COPY

Since writing the article on the Japanese copy of the U.S. Cal. 30, M1 Carbine for BANZAI, which appeared in the 1987 issue on pages 39-41, very little added information has turned up. Other articles pertaining to the Japanese copy of the carbine have appeared in the 1986 issue of BANZAI, on pages 319 and 346 and in the 1987 issue on pages 152, 209 and 281. Efforts to obtain further information have been fruitless. Contacting INTERARMS of Alexandria, VA, who imports the modern HOWA rifles, to see if they could help, have also failed to gain new information.

It seems that all the known or written information has come from the original HOWA company advertising brochure. I'm sure that the information about the Howa carbine copies that appeared in the book, *M1 CARBINES* by Larry Ruth were also gained from the brochure. I am not sure of the dates of manufacture or the amounts produced, that Mr. Ruth states in his book, but I believe that the military destined carbine copies were made around 1950. There is a possibility that manufacturing of the carbines started in 1947 or 48. I base this vaguely on the article which appeared in the 1986 issue of BANZAI on page 346, which tells of the Japanese M1 carbine copy stamped with the BULLSEYE name and utilizing original American made parts. I also remember seeing and handling a carbine copy many years ago, which may have been one of the BULLSEYE copies. I believe that Howa first started constructing their carbines using American made parts and these are the carbines that were destined for the military. In fact, it may be that all the military contract carbines were actually assembled using GI parts. These carbines will be the same as the standard U.S. made military issue carbines. I also speculate that some of the first civilian destined carbines were made utilizing GI parts. Total production may have reached one thousand pieces.

The receiver markings are not consistent with the information (hearsay) of the amounts of carbines produced. Ruth's book has a picture of a civilian model (serial 0545) that has the receiver stamped with the HOWA name and TRADE MARK, plus MADE IN JAPAN stamped on the left side of the receiver. Obviously, this carbine was destined for export. My collection has a civilian model of the carbine (serial 0623) that has only the serial and the Howa trademark stamped on the receiver. The serial number in the 600 range seems to back up my theory that a thousand civilian carbines were made. The butt plate on the HOWA MACHINERY LTD and the trademark. There is nothing to indicate the exact date of manufacture. This piece is made completely of Japanese manufactured parts.

Rumors are that six of these carbines were imported into the U.S.A. If that is the case, this must be a rare item for any collection.

Since the HOWA line of sporting rifles is now being sold in this country, perhaps someone can put me in touch with a Howa sales representative. If anybody has any information on the BULLSEYE brand Japanese M1 copy, I would like to hear about it.

JERRY KWILINSKI 9038 W. Pine Orland Park, IL 60462