

# FIREARMS

By

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PART 8

## **.455 PISTOL, SELF LOADING MARK I, No. 2· 1915**

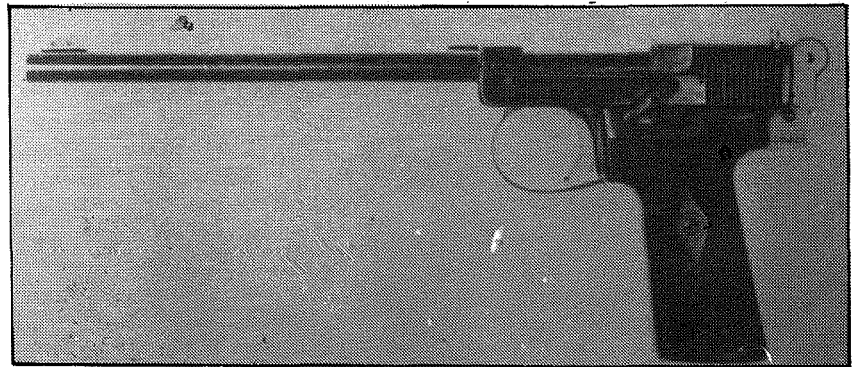
The Mark I No 2· was approved in April 1915 for issue to the Royal Flying Corps, who at that time had no proper means of defending their aeroplanes when in contact with the enemy. The need was for a light automatic or semi-automatic weapon capable of being easily held and aimed. The Naval Webley was modified to take a shoulder stock, and an additional safety which held the hammer at full-cock. A special backsight was fitted, which was supposed to allow for deflection between a moving firer and a moving target, with range graduations up to two hundred yards.

These R.F.C. Webleys were issued in small numbers for about a year; by 1916, the use of machine-guns was becoming more usual, and the pistols and rifles were taken out of service. The unusual curved shoulder-stock of the R.F.C. Webley was intended to give the firer an easier hold with the left hand, and today it is a very rare collector's item.

## **.22 SINGLE-SHOT TARGET PISTOLS, 1911**

Two target versions of the Model 1906 .32 automatic were offered to their users with the intention that they should be used for training and target practice. This was a common idea with Webleys, and the cost of the additional pistols was quickly regained by the savings ammunition from the use of .22 calibre. The 1911 versions were weighted to the same as the .32, and used many of their components. There was no recoil system, each shot having to be loaded by hand, and the top of the slide was cut away to allow this to be done.

The pistol was offered with two lengths of barrel, 4½ inch



*Webley .22 Single Shot.*

and 9 inch. The Metropolitan Police adopted the 4½ inch barrel as a standard, and retained the weapon for as long as they used the .32.

springs.

There have been distinct models, the 1909, the 1938 and the 1952. All have a barrel 9 7/8 inches long, and are chambered for the .22 long rifle cartridge.

## **SINGLE-SHOT TARGET PISTOLS**

Since 1909, Webleys have produced a series of .22 single-shot target pistols intended for the expert shot. The original design has not greatly altered since the beginning, and the most recent models differ mainly in the use of plastic grips and manufacturing methods. It has been a remarkably successful pistol in its day, though it is now outclassed by the highly specialized weapons made for international competitions. One feature which has helped its reputation, is the smooth trigger pull, achieved by using only three component parts and two

As promised in the last issue of 'IL-PULIZIJA', we have covered the Webley automatic pistols and so we have come to the end of the Webley series.

We would like to thank all those who have made suggestions as to which 'MAKE' they would like us to treat; furthermore we would also like to thank all those others who have shown their appreciation and urged us to continue with these articles.

*"There's more in this doghandling lark, than I thought" SAYS PERCY P.C.*