

COLT AUTOMATIC PISTOL  
Cal. 9.8 m/m and .38 ACP

Digitized by:

September 14, 1951

Mr. Ray Kirby,  
1564 Stemmons Ave.,  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Your pistol was returned to you via prepaid express yesterday. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to you for your courtesy in loaning us this weapon for study; it is the first time we have had a chance to actually examine this gun, and from it fill out a little more of the very sketchy information on it.

We are including a copy of our file record on your gun with this letter. To the information in this record (which is mainly descriptive) we can add:

As you probably know, in 1912 the Colt Company tried to interest the Roumanian Government in a pistol patterned on the M1911, and using a cartridge of a caliber closer to European practice than the .45. The 9.8 was developed for the Roumanian tests. Very few guns were made up for these tests. And as the Roumanians were not interested in the gun (they adopted the M1912 Steyr 9mm pistol) the whole project was dropped.

From the examination of your weapon it would appear that Colt made these guns to use as many standard M 1911 parts as possible, and still produce a smaller weapon, more to European practice.

One barrel is definitely made for the .38 ACP. The other barrel is bored for the 9.8m/m bullet, and chambered for the .38 ACP case. As the .38 ACP cartridge was the closest one to the projected 9.8, the Colt Company undoubtedly used it in their development work. It is our belief that a .38 ACP case was used with a large a bullet as possible, which would be a heel-type 9.8m/m diameter projectile.

As to the exact number of guns made for these tests, we do not know. As stated above, very few were made, and yours is the first we, or anyone we know, has seen. The Colt Company does not have one of these guns, nor do they even have any accurate records on it.

Again many thanks for loaning us your gun, and please do not hesitate to call on us should there be any way in which we could be of assistance to you.

Yours very truly,

H. P. White Company,

W. F. Wieman

WFM/eb

COLT AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Cal. 9.8 m/m and .38 ACP

Overall length: 8"

Barrel length (3 barrels): 4 11/16"

Weight empty: 2lbs. 2oz.

Sights: Fixed. Square notch rear; square top blade front

Grips: Walnut

Finish: Slide, thumb safety, trigger, mainspring housing, grip safety, magazine release, blued; slide stop, rear sight, parkerized; frame, barrel bushing, bright natural.

Magazine capacity: In both 9.8 m/m and .38 ACP, 8 shots.

The slide, barrel bushing, and barrels have been especially made for this gun. The frame appears to have been adapted from an M1911. Other parts, such as the firing mechanism, recoil spring, recoil spring guide and plug are unaltered M1911. The magazine has been altered from the M1902 Military.

Exterior barrel dimensions of the three barrels sent to us with this

arm are:

	Length	Diameter at Breech	Diameter at Muzzle
9.8 m/m Colt	4 11/16"	.642"	.527"
Unknown Calibre	4 11/16"	.642"	.529"
.38 ACP	4 11/16"	.642"	.500"

The barrel bushing of this arm is adapted to the smaller .38 ACP barrel, thus the other two are not interchangeable in the gun. The barrel bushing appears to have been bushed down to take the .38 ACP barrel.

It is our belief that the barrel listed as unknown calibre was made for development purposes.

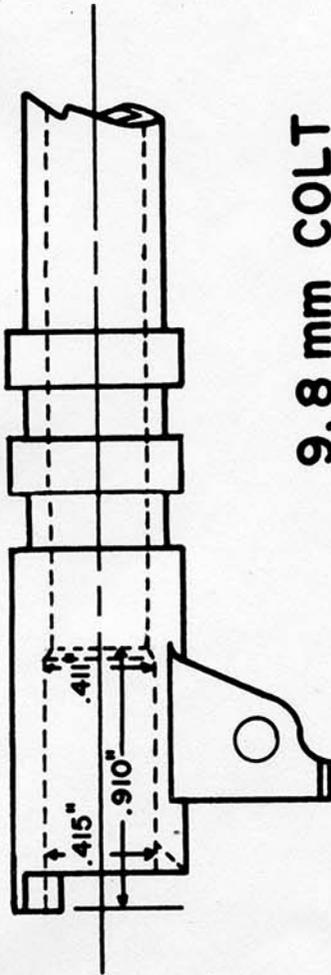
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The chamber dimensions are those for the .38 ACP semi-rim case, while the bore dimensions are those for the 9.8 m/m Colt. It is possible that development work on the 9.8 cartridge was carried out using the .38 ACP case and a larger, heel-type bullet.

The gun was not test fired by us.

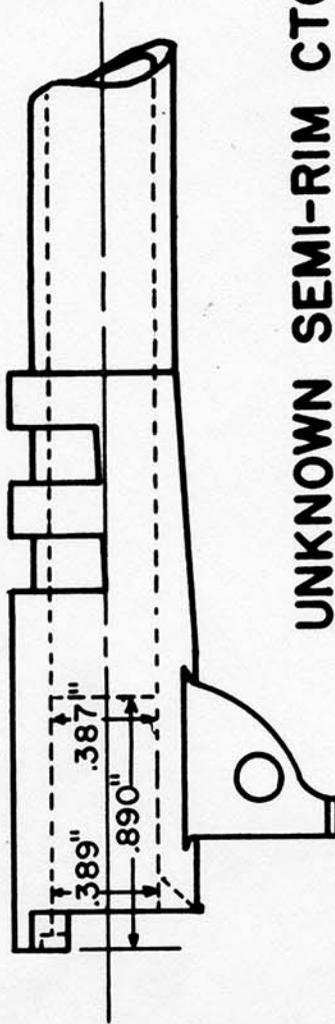
The gun was loaned to us through the courtesy of Mr. Ray Kirby,  
1564 Stemmons, Dallas, Texas, August 23, 1951.

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9.8 mm COLT

BORE DIA. .380" (9.65mm)  
 GROOVE DIA. .390" (9.9mm)  
 LAND WIDTH .0525"  
 GROOVE WIDTH .1590"



UNKNOWN SEMI-RIM CTG.

BORE DIA. .380" (9.65mm)  
 GROOVE DIA. .385" (9.8mm)  
 LAND WIDTH .060"  
 GROOVE WIDTH .153"

Both barrels: Six Grooves  
 Left Twist

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BARREL & CHAMBER  
 SPECIFICATIONS

WFW

SCALE 1 1/2" = 1"  
 Approx.

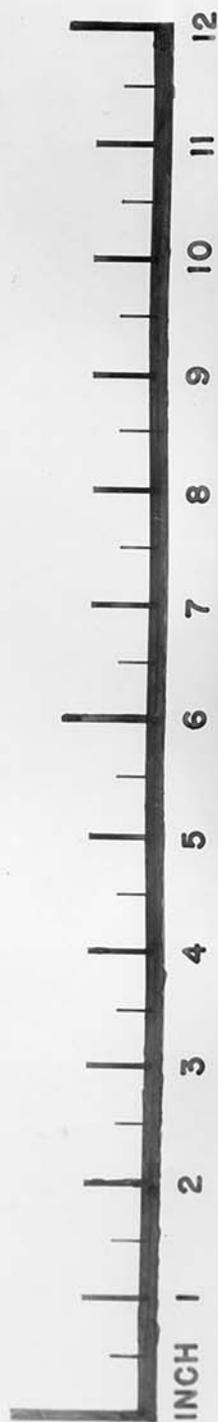
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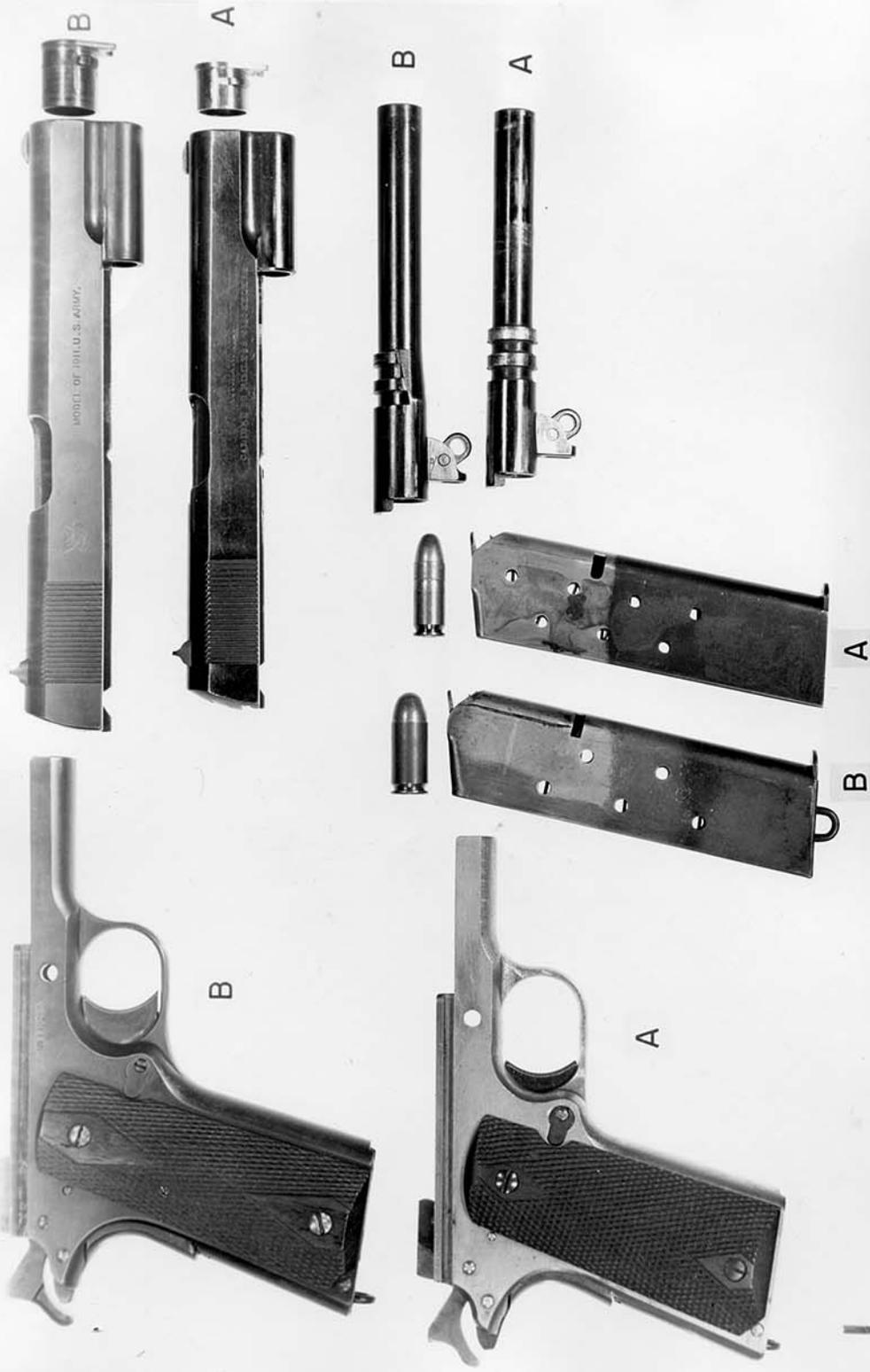
FIG. 1

A - 9.8mm Colt  
B - .45 Colt M1911



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**FIG. 4**



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FIG. 2

A - 9.8mm Colt  
 B - .45 Colt M1911



INCH 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

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FIG. 3