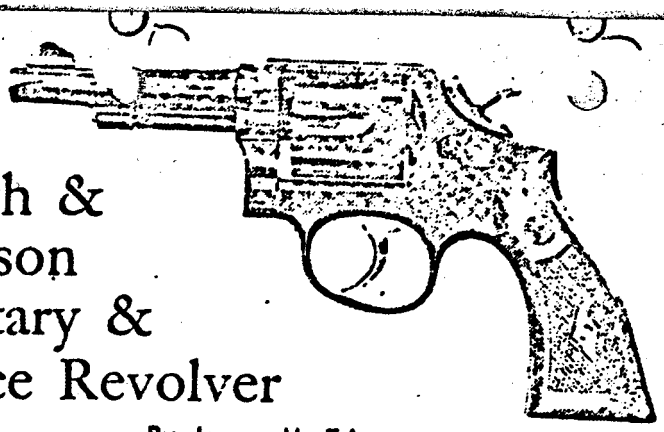


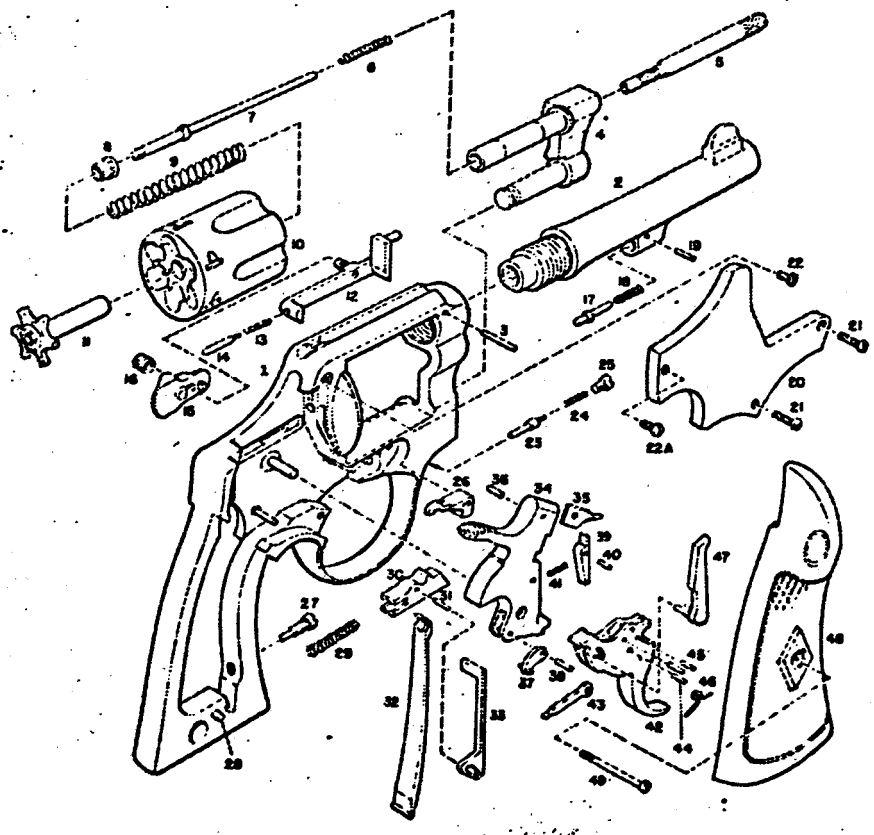
Smith & Wesson Military & Police Revolver

By James M. Triggs

DURING the Spanish-American War, Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Mass., was tendered a government contract for 3000 cal. .38 double-action revolvers, of which 2000 were for the Navy and 1000 for the Army. The war ended before delivery of a single gun had been made, but the contract was not canceled, and first deliveries were eventually made early in 1899. Designated the .38 Hand Ejector, Military & Police Model, this revolver was the first cal. .38 side-swing model to be made by Smith & Wesson. It was chambered for the .38 Colt long cartridge. The military version was made with 6½" barrel and walnut grips. Th mercial model had hard rubbe and 4" barrel.

The improved Model 1902 M troduced in that year was cha for the new cal. .38 S&W Speci tridge, and also featured a fro for the extractor rod.

The Model 1905 that sup the Model 1902 also incorporat nificant improvements. By 194 1,000,000 M&P's had been ma tured. Under pressure of wartim Smith & Wesson in April 1942 production of the Victory Mode with gray sandblasted finish. numbers were preceded by the 'V' and a new numbering seri begun. In December 1944 an im hammer block was instituted an numbers were preceded by the 'VS' to indicate incorporation feature in the lock mechanism. W coming of peace, and cancellat government contracts, Smith & W resumed production of comm



Parts Legend

1. Frame
2. Barrel
3. Barrel pin
4. Yoke
5. Extractor rod
6. Center pin spring
7. Center pin
8. Extractor rod collar
9. Extractor spring
10. Cylinder
11. Extractor
12. Bolt
13. Bolt plunger spring
14. Bolt plunger
15. Thumbpiece
16. Thumbpiece nut
17. Locking bolt
18. Locking bolt spr
19. Locking bolt pin
20. Side-plate
21. Side-plate screws, roundhe
22. Side-plate screw, large hea (discontinued)

22A. Side-plate screw, flathead
23. Cylinder stop plunger
24. Cylinder stop plunger spri
25. Cylinder stop screw
26. Cylinder stop
27. Strain screw
28. Stock pin
29. Rebound slide spring
30. Rebound slide
31. Rebound slide pin
32. Mainspring
33. Hammer block
34. Hammer
35. Hammer nose
36. Hammer nose rivet
37. Stirrup
38. Stirrup pin
39. Sear
40. Sear pin
41. Sear spring
42. Trigger
43. Trigger lever
44. Trigger lever pin
45. Hand spring torsion pins
46. Hand torsion spring
47. Hand
48. Stocks
49. Stock screw

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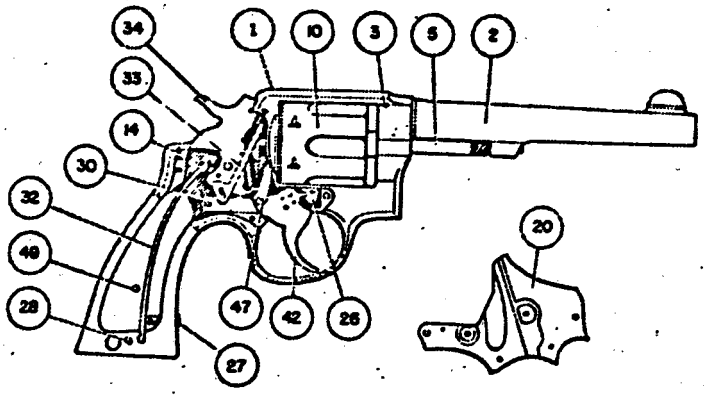
ENCLOSURE



Drawing of revolver with side-plate removed shows proper relationship of interior parts

M&P's but continued the serial number sequence begun in 1942. Serial numbers were preceded by the letter 'S'.

On Oct. 21, 1947, with gun No. S 924.878, the manufacturer instituted an improved short action, and external shape of the hammer was modified for easier cocking.

Production of the 'S' series continued until March 1948 when the present 'C' series was started. It is significant that over 1,000,000 M&P's, including the Victory Model, were manufactured from April 1942 through March 1948. As of this date Smith & Wesson has produced well over 500,000 M&P revolvers in the 'C' series.

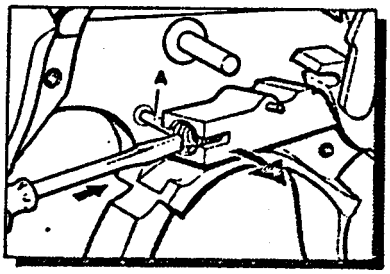
DISASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

Swing out cylinder and check to insure that revolver is unloaded. Cylinder and yoke assembly are removed by loosening forward side-plate screw (21) and drawing entire assembly to front and out of frame (1). Further disassembly of cylinder, yoke, or extractor is not recommended and should be undertaken only by a qualified gunsmith. Remove stock screw (49) and stocks (48).

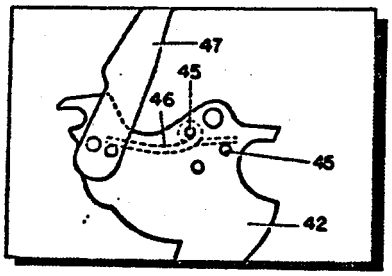
Remove side-plate screws (21 [2], 22, 22A). Side-plate (20) is loosened by tapping opposite surface of frame sharply with a wood or fiber hammer until it can be removed from frame. Attempts to pry out side-plate will deform its edges and those of frame cut.

Mainspring (32) is easily removed by loosening strain screw (27). All interior parts of lock mechanism are now easily removed for cleaning or replacement. However, for normal cleaning purposes, it is seldom necessary to carry disassembly beyond removal of side-plate. The accompanying drawings point out some methods for further disassembly.

Exercise care in reassembly of lock mechanism to replace all parts in proper relationship.



1 To remove rebound slide (30), pry up rear end of slide with blade of small screwdriver but do not allow spring to clear end of rebound slide stud (A) in frame. Compress rear end of rebound slide spring (29) with screwdriver blade as shown and draw rebound slide up off stud (A), taking care not to let compressed spring escape. In replacing rebound slide in frame, spring must again be compressed inside slide so that it will clear stud before slide can be pressed down into position. Note that the stud (A) and other pivot studs in frame are permanently installed and their removal should not be attempted



2 The drawing shows proper position of hand (47) installed in trigger (42). Hand can be removed from trigger by pulling it free. When replacing hand in trigger, take care that hand torsion spring (46) is in correct position with respect to hand spring torsion pin (45) in trigger and small torsion pin installed in hand.

ENCLOSURE 6.2 - 109065 -2852