

CHAPTER 2

The Mauser Modelo Español carbines....."M.1891", M.1892, M.1893, M.1895... and some interesting variants.

Besides the **Argentinian Model of 1891 carbines** in 7.65 mm caliber acquired due to the crisis in the city of Melilla, marked "**Modelo Argentino 1891**" on the left side of the receiver and with the Argentine coat of arms on the chamber, other carbines of the same model and caliber are known, bearing the Spanish coat of arms on the chamber and the generic inscription "MANUFACTURA LOEWE BERLIN" on the left receiver (SN 1941 in my collection); These were in all probability Argentine carbines which had not yet been marked at the time of their cession to Spain and were instead marked as described; I am not aware of how many were so marked but probably not many, judging by their scarcity in the collector's market; Although they are commonly referred to as the "**Modelo Español 1891**", this model never officially existed.

In his book, "Mauser Military Rifles of the World", Robert Ball reports having seen some with Turkish inspection marks (a half moon) on the bolts, and he cites Colin Webster's work "Argentine Mauser Rifles 1871-1959", where that author tells us that, due to the crisis in Melilla, the Spanish Government purchased not only Argentinian weapons but also Turkish ones; I have no other information on this subject.



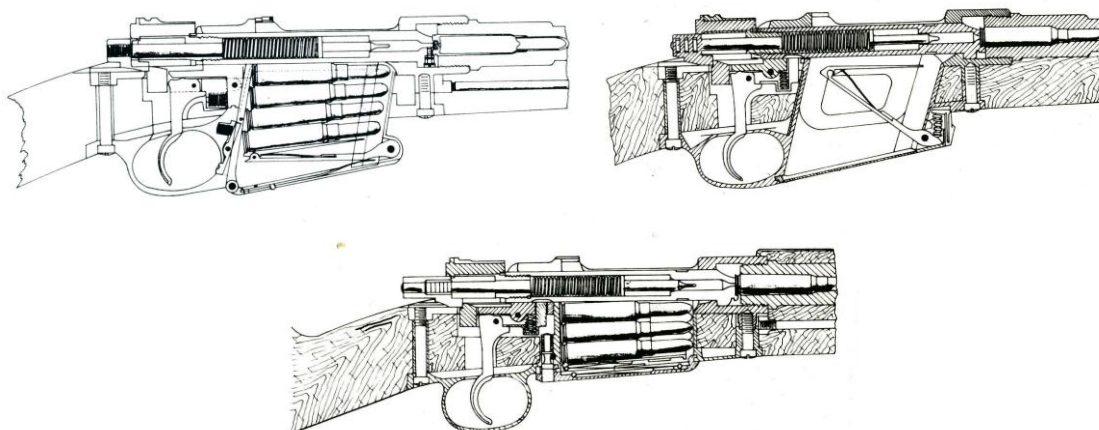
Model of 1891 "Modelo Español" carbine, 7.65 mm caliber, and its factory markings.

As discussed in Chapter 1, only one or two specimens of the Spanish M.1892 rifle were actually manufactured; However, both Bernardo Barceló and Robert Ball agree that 400 units of **the M.1892 carbine** were made for the Navy; The M.92 rifle and the carbine are identical to each other except for their length and they differ from the trials M.1891 rifle and from the Argentinian or "Spanish" M.1891 carbine in their 7 mm caliber instead of 7.65 mm, and in their trigger guard and magazine being made as a single piece, and not two as in the M.1891s; Those I have seen in the existing literature were made by Mauser Oberndorf.

The reason for only 400 M.1892 carbines having been built, out of a 5,000 unit contract is probably the result of the counter order caused by the adoption of the M.1893 rifle; These 400 carbines which had been ordered by the Navy for their own trials, were already manufactured at the time of the counter order and had to be accepted.



Factory diagram of the "Spanien, MarineKarabiner M.92/93"



Comparative diagrams of the M.91, M.92, and M.93, rifles and carbines. ("Historia del Armamento Español", vol. II, by Juan Sopena Garreta, Barcelona 1979).

Around 22,500-27,000 **Modelo Español M.1893 carbines** in 7 mm caliber were manufactured by Ludwig Loewe; They bear the Spanish coat of arms on the chamber plus "BERLIN" and the date 1893 or 1894 (both specimens in my collection, SNs A3907 and A463 are dated 1894); Their mechanism is identical to that of the rifle except for the turned down and sharply angulated bolt; Their rear sight is calibrated from 400 to 1,400 meters, their stock extends to the tip of the muzzle, they have sling rings, and they lack bayonet lug.



From left to right rear sights of M.91, M.93 and M.95 carbines.



Model of 1893 Spanish carbine, 7 mm caliber, SN A3907, made by Loewe in 1894, and its markings.

Carbine SN A463, mentioned in the above paragraph is an ***atypical specimen***, with the stock extending only 2.5 "(5.5 cms) beyond the muzzle band. In my opinion it is an irregular alteration made by one of its users, or perhaps by Bannerman of New York, who modified many of the weapons captured in the Spanish American war and offered them for sale as "sporters"; I do not believe this to be an original factory variation, even though I am aware of the existence of a few other, in my opinion, similarly mutilated specimens.



Model of 1893 Spanish carbine, 7 mm caliber, SN A463, made by Loewe in 1894 and (in my opinion) subsequently modified.

The Model of 1893 Spanish model carbine was also made under license at **the Oviedo Factory** and catalogued as the "***M.1895 carbine for mounted troops***" and differed from the German made ones only in small details, such as the turned down bolt handle being curved and not sharply angulated; In my collection I have serial numbers, C2110 dated 1903, 8508 dated 1899, and 8479, this last one, a rebuilt unit lacking Oviedo markings and date, and exhibiting a safety gas escape orifice in the bolt head and left receiver.



Oviedo made M.1895 carbine, SN 8508 , 7 mm caliber , dated 1899, and its markings.

Finally, I have an **experimental variant of the M.1895 carbine, SN 26**, also rebuilt in the 1950s but in 7.62 mm NATO caliber.



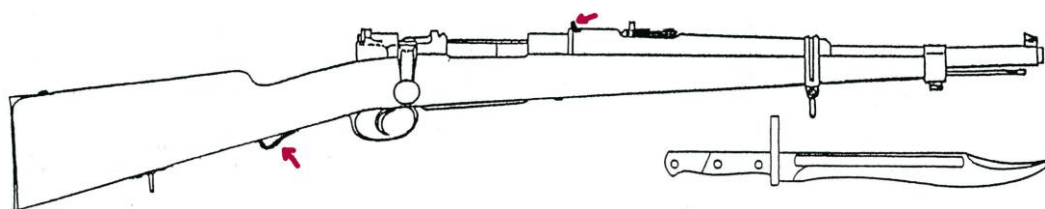
Experimental Oviedo made M.1895 carbine, SN 26, in 7.62 mm NATO caliber.

But, this is not the end of this story, as the Mauser factory had initially offered the Spanish Government not only the model of 1893 Spanish Model carbine which was accepted and discussed in the previous paragraphs, but also a **second model**, of which one specimen made by Loewe and another one by Oviedo were displayed for many years in the collection of the, now closed, Monjuic Military Museum in Barcelona. (see J. L. Calvo's article "Pieces of singular interest in the collection of the M.M.M(2)", in his website www.catalogacionarmas.com).



M.1893 Spanish Mauser, second model (No.2) carbines, from the collection of the M.M.M, Barcelona. Above specimen by Loewe-Berlin dated 1894, and specimen below by Oviedo, lacking markings. Both specimens of the M.M.M., Barcelona.

This second model was officially named **“Mauser Mod. No.2 carbine”** and differs from “Mod.No.1” in that the stock does not extend to the tip of the muzzle and it has a bayonet lug. Although never adopted officially, it was made experimentally in a very short series of around 40 units at the Oviedo factory, and was issued to the **“Compañía de Aerostacion”**, the Army’s observation balloon and blimp service, forerunner of the future Spanish Air Force. Curiously even though this carbine was never officially adopted, a very special bayonet was designed and manufactured at the Toledo Factory for it, the **“M.1898 bayonet for Compañía de Aerostación”**. Barceló, in an article published in “Armas” magazine (XVIII year, No.206) entitled **“La carabina de aerostación”** illustrates a specimen (the only one known to date) of this carbine, which differs from the No.2 models of the M.M.M collection in a few details such as, an ergonomic pistol grip rearward prolongation of the trigger guard, and what he describes as a “small plate with a circular orifice” or “collapsible sight” of uncertain purpose, located just in front of the handguard and behind the rear sight, which, in my opinion, could be a rapid target acquisition peep sight.



Drawing of the carbine described by Barceló as the model issued to the Compañía de Aerostación, and it’s bayonet; The two red arrows indicating the two special features described. (J.L.Calvó).



The very rare “Bayoneta M.1898 para Compañía de Aerostacion” (courtesy E.Gorostiza).

Another variant of the Mauser No.2 M.1893 carbine is the Mexican M. 1895 carbine which will be described in Chapter 5. Finally, I'll mention that Robert Ball, in the 5th edition of his work “Mauser Military Rifles of the World”, tells us that of the 14.000 rifles apparently acquired by Spain in 1896 from **Fabrique Nationale, FN**, an uncertain number were **carbines**, and in page 349 he shows a photograph of one of them, the only one identified so far, which appears to be identical to the previously described M.93 No.2 carbine, and just as the FN made M.93 rifles, lacks any Spanish acceptance or property markings.

***Hector J. Meruelo
Miami, Florida, June, 2014.***

NOTE

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