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**EIBAR REVOLVERS IN THE GREAT WAR (2)**

**Six shot, double action, “Modèle 1915”, 8 mm Lebel caliber revolver, with “AE” logo on the frame (Antonio Errasti).**

During the Great War Antonio Errasti’s workshop manufactured an 8 mm. Lebel, swing out cylinder revolver for the French Army that he named the “Modele 1915”, which remotely resembled the French M1892 Modèle d’Ordonnance; For the Italian Army he made their regulation M.1889 10.35 mm caliber Bodeo revolver, which was also made by “Arizmendi y Goenaga” and by Salvador Arostegui.



**Six shot, double action, 10.35 mm caliber, Md.1889 Bodeo revolver, marked: “S. AROSTEGUI / EIBAR 1917”**



**Antonio Errasti and “Arizmendi & Goenaga” trade marks on Md. 1889 Bodeo revolvers, both also marked “SCOLARI – ROMA 1916”.**

Antonio Errasti Ibarzabal was an employee of Tomas Urizar who went on his own in 1904 when he registered the logo "AE" for firearms; But it is not until 1906 that he appears in the Eibar Industrial Register employing six workers until 1910 when he declared only eight; In 1908 Gregorio de Mugica tells us that he was engaged in producing Puppy and Velo-Dog revolvers but his first patent was obtained in 1907 for "a regulation revolver"; It was a "patent of introduction" and it referred to the French M1892.

Between 1911-1914 he employed 10-20 workers but in 1915 he declared only six; In 1916 he listed 20-30, and in 1917, 30-40; Then in 1918-20 due to the post war crisis he again dropped to 10-20 workers but during 1921-23 he increased his work force to 20-30 employees, producing revolvers and also automatic pistols, which he had started to manufacture during the war.



**Variant of the "Modèle 1915" revolver, possibly made in Eibar by Antonio Errasti (??).**

Another maker of the M1889 Bodeo revolver was Salvador Arostegui Churruca, an employee of the firm of "J. M. Unamuno y Cia.", who in 1907, went on his own with an "arms workshop", declaring an average of two workers until 1917-18 when he declared nine; He went back to his previous employment in 1919 and died in 1921, being succeeded by his son, Eulogio Arostegui Muguruza who, in 1922 registered the "AZUL" trademark for marketing pistols and revolvers of his own manufacture.

I have read that it was in early 1917 that the French Army became interested in the Eibar produced "Colt" and "Smith & Wesson" swing out cylinder type revolvers, in 8 mm Lebel caliber, and their purchase was authorized at that time; The firm of "Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>" made a "military" model inspired in the Colt New Service and marketed as "EL LUNAR", although I could not find that name among those registered by this company; The "Smith & Wesson Military and Police" was made in 8 mm Lebel caliber, by "La Industrial Orbea", "Trocaola, Aranzabal y C<sup>a</sup>", and "Arizmendi, Zulaica y C<sup>a</sup>", and probably also by others.

The firm of "Arizmendi, Zulaica y C<sup>a</sup>" was founded shortly before the start of the Great War and participated in the Eibar Arts and Industries Exposition of 1914; It appears in the Eibar Industrial Register for 1915 as employing six workers but in 1916 it was ranked as a second class shop with 20-30 employees; It was absent in 1917 and reappeared in 1918 with 10-20 workers, down to four in 1919, when it was reorganized with the legal name of "Arizmendi e Ibarzabal".

In 1915 it registered a trade mark for revolvers consisting of a zebra and in 1917 the trade name: "LA CEBRA", which they also used in the marketing of automatic pistols; "Arizmendi e Ibarzabal" maintained the ownership of this trade mark.



**Eibar "Smith & Wesson Military and Police" revolver; Six shot, 8 mm Lebel caliber, barrel length 111 mm, marked "LA INDUSTRIAL ORBEA", with "OH" logo on the grip panels; Serial number 141332.**



**Eibar swing out cylinder "Colt" revolver; Six shot, 8 mm Lebel caliber, barrel length 124 mm, marked "EL LUNAR", made by "Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>".**

Revolvers based on the Colt Positive in 8 mm Lebel caliber, made by "Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>" and marketed under the trade names of "CORDERO", "DETECTIVE" and "COLLINS", all three names registered by this firm in 1911-13, were also sold to the French Army .