

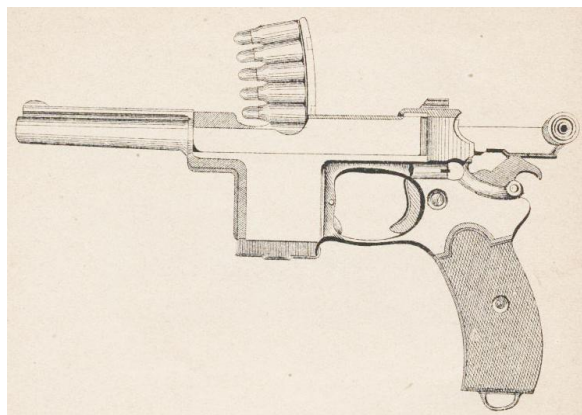
## 2

**THE BERGMANN AND CAMPO-GIRO PISTOLS (I)**

**Model of 1908 Bergmann pistol, 9mm Bergmann caliber (9mm Largo); Stripper clip or detachable magazine fed, six shot capacity; 100 mm long barrel; Marked: ANCIENS ETABLISSEMENTS PIEPER / HERSTAL, LIEGE, BERGMANN'S PATENT**

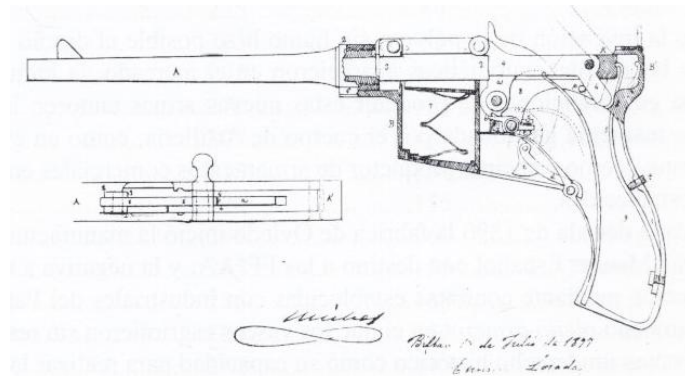
In 1896 the mixed Portable Weapons Commission started trials in order to replace the regulation revolvers used by the Army with some type of "automatic" pistol; These trials were continued later on by the Professional Junta and Trials Commission which recommended the adoption of the "Bergmann-Mars 1903" pistol, which was adopted as regulation sidearm by Royal Order of September, 5, 1905, with the denomination "Model 1903 9mm Bergmann pistol".

This was followed by a contract for 3000 units from its inventor Theodor Bergmann, who, not finding in Germany any maker willing to produce them, ceded his patent rights in 1907 to the Belgian firm "Anciens Etablissements Pieper" who then produced them in its "Bergmann-Bayard 1908" variant; These were then issued to the Spanish Army but not until 1910, and due to the modifications done to the original model another Royal Order was emitted on November, 16, 1909, which stated: "it is also H.M's will that, considering the modifications done to the weapon, it be from now on referred to as the Bergmann 9 mm Pistol Md. of 1908".



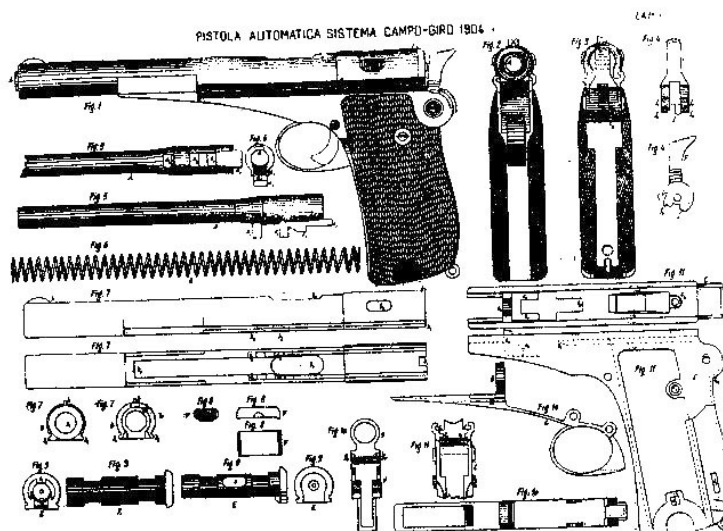
**Bergmann pistol, Md 1903; illustration included in its manual published in 1906.**

The conditions surrounding the adoption of the Bergmann pistol can be sensed from a text published in the 1907 “Artillery Memorial” *Memorial de Artilleria*, (V series, IIIrd Tome, pages 51-53), which, after describing the tests to be administered to the acquired pistols added, “the adoption of the Bergmann pistol as regulation sidearm, (is)not of obligatory purchase by Generals, Chiefs and Officers but is only a recommendation of the model as the one that best fulfilled, amongst the tested models, the conditions required of these arms, and does not imply that further studies and trials of other models, specially of Spanish designers that may appear in the future, be abandoned, specially if one of these demonstrates a definite superiority that may advise its adoption instead of the approved model” (the Bergmann); It also states the advisability of, in future models to be adopted, to “aim for standardization of the ammunition as the Bergmann model ammunition satisfies, as of this date, the necessary ballistic conditions”; Lastly, it mentioned as “under trials” the (pistol) model presented “some time ago by the actual Colonel Don Enrique Losada and a more recent one invented by the Comandante of General Staff, the Count of Campo Giro “.



**Losada pistol diagram, included in his patent application, granted to D. Enrique Losada y del Corral, on August, 7, 1897.**

The first pistol patented in Spain by a Spaniard was the Losada pistol in 1897, followed by the Charola y Anitua in 1898; The third one ,under the heading “A pistol denominated Browning”, was granted in 1902 as a Patent of Introduction, to Juan Miguel Unamuno, resident of Eibar, describing the 1900 Browning, which he never manufactured; The fourth one was granted in 1903 to Bonifacio Echeverria for a Parabellum inspired design which he did not manufacture either; The fifth one, for a Mannlicher 1901 inspired design, was granted in March of 1904 to the firm of “Garate, Anitua y Cia”, and the sixth one, granted in October of the same year to D.Venancio López de Ceballos y Aguirre, Count of Campo Giro, who was authorized by Royal Order of January, 25, 1905 to proceed with its development at the Oviedo Factory and to construct 25 specimens for experimental purposes.

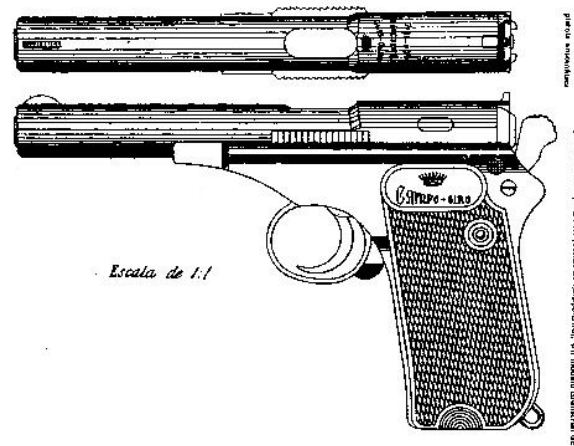


**Campo Giro pistol design, Model of 1904, published in the Artillery Memorial in 1906.**

Born in 1865 in Peña Castillo, Santander, Venancio López de Ceballos entered the Cavalry Military Academy in 1876 until 1879 when he graduated as a sub-Lieutenant, ranked number one of his class; In 1881 he entered the General Staff Academy and was promoted to Lieutenant of this Corp in 1885; He then practiced in Corps and Weapons during 1886-87 and served in several assignments until 1893 when, promoted to Captain, was sent to Africa where he saw action in Melilla and surroundings; In 1894 he was promoted to Comandante and the following year was sent to Cuba where, as Chief of General Staff of the Matanzas Brigade he obtained the surrender of the “insurrecto” leader Benito Socorro, and underwent the American fleet’s bombardment of Matanzas, being named Chief of General Staff of the 1st Corp’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and was decorated for merit for his service in the island.

Upon his return to Spain he was elected Representative to the Cortes and settled in Madrid in inactive status until 1905 when he was placed in a supernumerary position without pay and approved for promotion due to length of service; In 1909 he was promoted to Lieutenant-General of General Staff and in 1911 was returned to active duty as Aide de Camp to the Captain General D. Fernando Primo de Rivera, until November 1912 when he was granted his retirement and released from the Army.

The patent that he obtained in 1904 for “A 9mm automatic pistol of a new system” was followed by another in 1911 for “an automatic carbine of the Campo Giro system, for (use with) jacketed and semi-jacketed ammunition”. In 1912 he registered his pistol’s design as a “industrial factory model” and on November, 22, of the same year he was granted another patent under the heading: “An automatic pistol of the Campo Giro system with recoil shock absorber, for 11,25 mm, 9 mm Largo, 9 mm Corto and 7.65 mm” and from 1913 to 1915 he added several improvements.



**Campo Giro Md.1912 pistol design, registered in the same year by D. Venancio López de Ceballos y Aguirre, Count of Campo Giro, as his “Industrial model of automatic pistol”**

Once the trials performed with the successive pistols produced by the Oviedo Factory were completed, a Royal Order of September, 24, 1912 authorized the adoption of the “Campo Giro pistol Mod. of 1912”, to be constructed at the Oviedo Factory and was to “use the same ammunition used until now by the Bergmann pistol, with the same type of powder, and the load determined to be best” and it added that “the adoption as regulation sidearm of the Campo Giro pistol does not imply that the Bergmann pistols now in use be abandoned and therefore they may continue to be used by those who now own them”.