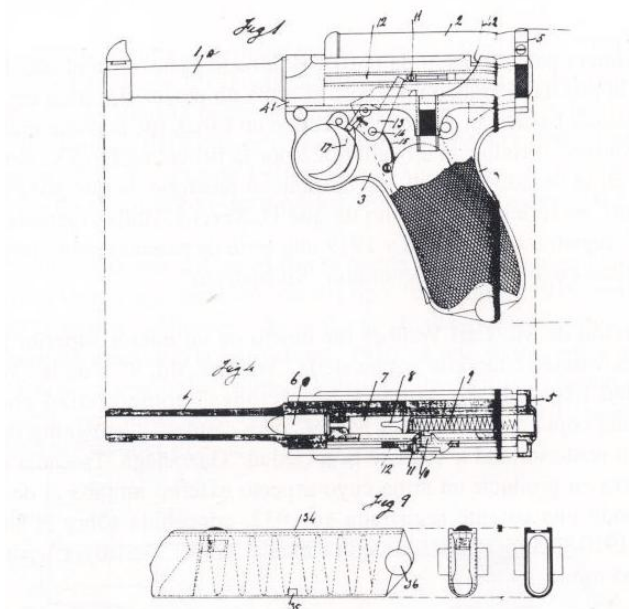


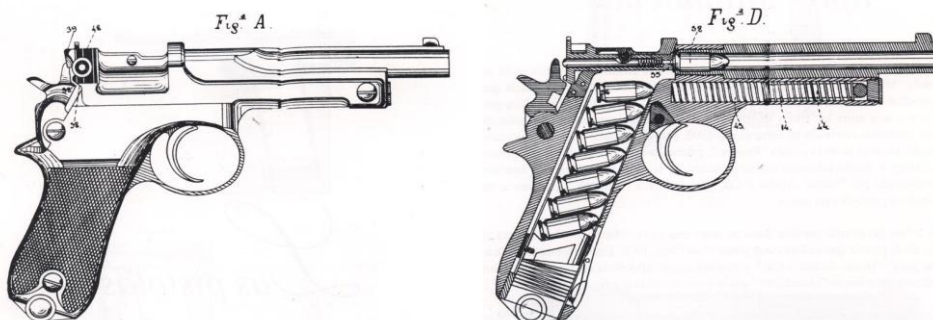
## 4

## EIBAR AUTOMATICS OF THE EARLY 1900'S



**Blueprint of the pistol patented by Bonifacio Echeverria in December, 1903**

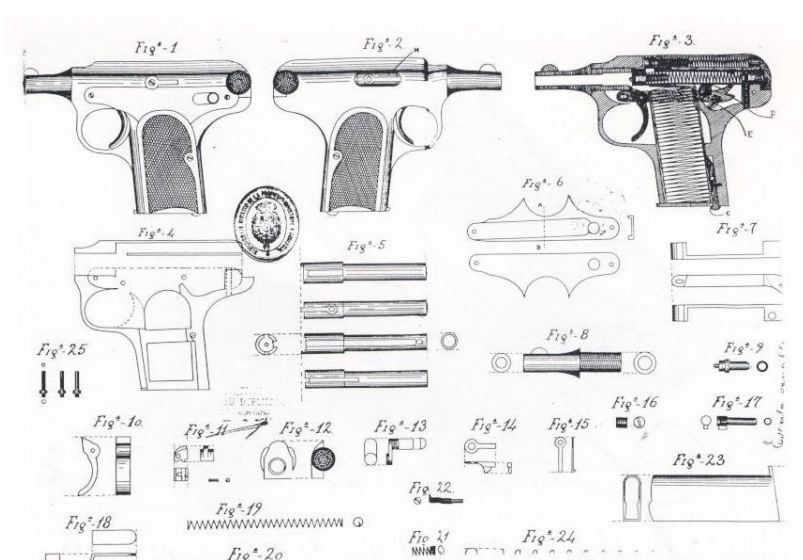
The third patent granted in Spain to a Spanish designer for an automatic pistol, was that issued to Bonifacio Echeverria in September of 1903, for a Parabellum inspired pistol that was never produced; The fourth patent was issued to the firm of "Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>" for "improvements to magazine fed, recoil operated, automatic pistols", granted on September, 12, 1904 and it had better luck: The patented pistol, inspired on the Mannlicher 1901, was marketed under the name of "La Lira" and was presented to the 1908 Eibar Exposition of Arts and Industries by its manufacturer, together with the EXPRESS pistol, also patented in the same year by "Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>"; Also a 7.65 mm pistol identical to the "La Lira" except for the location of the magazine release, was marketed under the name TRIUMPH, and although it had no makers markings, it did have the GAC logo on the grip panels.



**"La Lira" system pistol, 7.65 mm caliber, as illustrated in the patent obtained by the firm of "Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>" in 1904**



**TRIUMPH, cal.7.65 mm, and EXPRESS (1908) cal.6.35 mm, pistols, marketed with the slogan THE BEST AUTOMATIC PISTOL (Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>). (Photo H. J. Meruelo)**



**Blueprints of the pistol patented by Miguel Culla y Suso as “An automatic pistol named Marte”; Produced by “Erquiaga, Muguruza y Comp.” it was marketed also under the names FIEL and DIANE, both registered to this firm; This pistol is one of the most original designs made in Eibar**



**6.35 mm caliber pistol marked: DIANE with “EMC” logo (Erquiaga, Muguruza y C<sup>a</sup>) and 7,65 mm caliber pistol marked: MARTIAN with “MAB” logo (Martin Antonio Bascaran)**

Other pistols introduced at the same Exposition were the MARTIAN, STAR, BOLTUN, and ZWLAYKA; The MARTIAN was presented by Martin Antonio Bascaran, who manufactured them in 6.35 and 7.65 mm calibers, after obtaining for them an initial patent for “An automatic pistol system named MARTIAN”, on July of 1907, which was soon followed by an improvement.



**6,35 mm caliber pistol BOLTUN, patented in 1907 by the firm of “F. Arizmendi y Goenaga”**

The BOLTUN pistol was introduced by the firm of “F. Arizmendi y Goenaga” which in 1907 also started to obtain patents for “improvements” of automatic pistols, initially based on the 1907 Pieper; One specimen of the BOLTUN pistol was detailed in the 1914 edition of the Eibar School of Armourers Museum and stated that 3500 units of this pistol were made from 1908 to 1912, both in 6.35 and 7.65mm calibers.



**1907 “STAR” pistol prototype**

The first pistol marketed under the STAR trademark, registered by Bonifacio Echeverria in 1908, had been patented by his brother Julian in June of 1907; Julian had worked for the firm of “Garate, Anitua y C<sup>a</sup>” where he acquired knowledge of the Mannlicher 1901 which allowed him to conceive the “Improvements in magazine fed recoil operated automatic pistols” mentioned in his patent.

In order to manufacture these pistols Julian and his brother Bonifacio founded the firm of “B. y J. Echeverria” but, lacking the necessary capital they appealed to the gun maker and businessman Modesto Santos and it was he who presented the STAR pistol at the exposition of Arts and Industries and obtained the exclusivity of their marketing and sale.

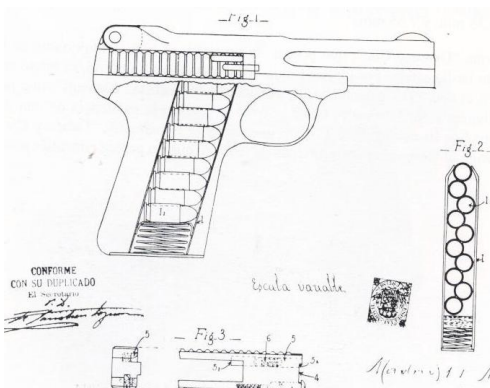
Another pistol made by “B. y J. Echeverria” was the STAR No.2 which actually was one of the Eibar “Brownings”, the initial model of which was patented by Julian Echeverria in 1909; However in March of 1910 the firm of “B. y J. Echeverria” was dissolved by mutual agreement, and Bonifacio completely assumed the manufacture of the STAR pistols, while paying Julian royalties a certain amount for each unit made, for his patent rights; Bonifacio Echeverria’s shop does not appear in the Eibar Industrial Register until 1913, when it declared 8 workers.

The manufacture of the STAR pistol patented in 1907 required improvements, added by Julian Echeverria to the original patent in 1909 and 1910; In 1914 Bonifacio Echeverria ended his relationship with Modesto Santos and personally introduced the STAR pistols in 6.35 and 7.65mm calibers to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exposition of Arts and Industries.

Toribio Zulaica obtained a patent of invention in 1907 for the ZWLAYKA pistol and added improvements in 1908 and 1909; It was an original design and was made by the firm of “Echeverria Hermanos”, until Zulaica introduced new models based on the 1903 and 1906 Brownings; To these Eibar “Brownings” I will dedicate the next chapter.

It is noteworthy that, in the early 1900s, while more and more Eibar arms makers began to engage in the manufacture of automatic pistols, the main firm, that of “Orbea y C<sup>a</sup>”, did not show great interest in these new weapons, as its activities were then directed to other areas such as obtaining the first license to sell arms in Morocco, under the auspices of the Act of Algeciras of 1906, and opened bazaars in Tangier and in Cádiz, and in 1907 inaugurated an ammunition factory in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which employed a hundred workers; Also, according to Gregorio de Mugica’s “Eibar, Monografia Historica”, it had “started a new industry manufacturing mother of pearl articles such as buttons, cufflinks, decorative objects, etc”.

While In the 1908 Exposition its exhibit included “a great display of everything they manufactured, shotgun shells, parlor and hunting guns, machinery, umbrella handles and mother of pearl desk items”, in the 1914 Exposition it was presented as “A firearms and mother of pearl objects manufacturer”.



**Patent obtained by “Orbea y C<sup>a</sup>” in 1912 illustrating a pistol based on the Clement.**

In 1912 “Orbea y C<sup>a</sup>” obtained its first patent for an automatic pistol based on the Clement that it never did manufacture; In 1913 it applied for a patent of introduction for “improvements to automatic firearms” and in 1914 obtained a patent of invention for “firing mechanism and safety for automatic pistols” which was used in a 6.35 mm caliber model of which I have seen only the following illustration in A. B. Zhuk’s “The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Handguns”.



**6.35mm caliber, six shot pistol, 50 mm long barrel with markings ORBEA Y COMPAÑIA-EIBAR; Drawing taken from A. B. Zhuk’s work “The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Handguns”**

More frequently found are the “Eibar type” pistols made by “Orbea y C<sup>a</sup>” and by “La Industrial Orbea” although with a quality inferior to that of the swing-out cylinder revolvers also made by these two companies.



**“Eibar type” six shot , 6.35mm caliber pistol, with a 55 mm barrel, marked ORBEA Y CIA. EIBAR ESPAÑA / PISTOLA AUTOMATICA (PATENT USIN) CAL 6,35 , logo “OH”.**