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THE SHARP-SHOOTER AND JO.LO.AR PISTOLS



Seven shot, 7,65 mm caliber, Sharp-Shooter pistol, SN 11225, marked: SHARP-SHOOTER PATENT No 68027 with logo “OV” in the grips (“Ojanguren y Vidosa”, dealers and distributors) and early Eibar rampant lion proof. (Photo H. J. Meruelo)

The safety, or safeties, in an automatic pistol, are designed to reduce the risk of carrying the weapon with a round in the chamber; In order to fire it we must first manually action the slide so as to chamber a round and cock the hammer.

In the Sharp-Shooter pistol (initially misspelled SHARP-SOOTER) the safety is even more necessary as, due to its peculiar design, it has to be carried with a round in the chamber at all times: In order to chamber the round, the slide, which lacks serrations, can not be retracted; Instead the dual purpose safety lever is swiveled backward, the barrel tips up ,a round is introduced into the chamber and the hammer is then manually cocked; After the first shot is fired the gun then functions like any other semiautomatic; The advantage of this system, patented in 1918 by Toribio Arrizabalaga, consists in the ease with which a caliber reducing tube could be inserted into the tipped-up barrel, converting the weapon to a small bore single shot for economical target practice; This feature was “inherited” by the Jo.Lo.Ar.



SHARP SHOOTER pistol, cal. 6.35 mm , cocked and locked; Markings: SHARP-SOOTER PATENT 68027 / CAL 6,35, logo SHARP SOOTER HCA (Hijos de C. Arrizabalaga); Swiveling the safety lever back releases the barrel which then tips up and a round can be inserted



JO.LO.AR pistol, cal. 6,35 mm, in its box with accessories, including a caliber reducing barrel insert for 4mm M20 rounds.



Cal 6.35 mm JO.LO.AR pistol with caliber reducing barrel insert in position; It used the 4mm M20 rounds made by the “Rheinisch-Westfalische Sprengstoff A.G”

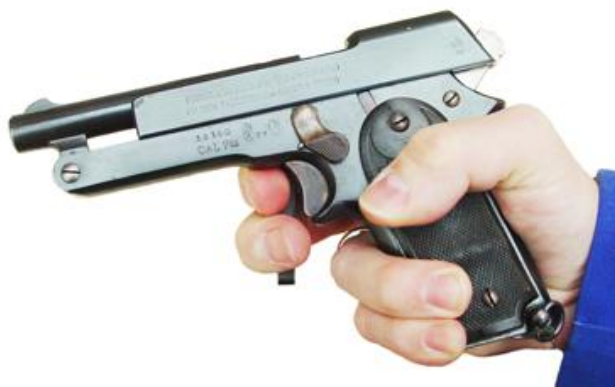
In 1908 Toribio Arrizabalaga Ibarzabal, son of the industrial arms maker Calixto Arrizabalaga Arriaga, formed, together with his brothers, Blas ,Evaristo, and Luciano, the firm of “Calixto Arrizabalaga e Hijos” which manufactured revolvers and in 1911 also an automatic pistol marketed under the IDEAL trade mark; As there is no mention of this firm in the Eibar Industrial Register they must have contracted their arms with different workshops.

In 1918 the Arrizabalaga brothers may have been part of the firm of “Azaña y Arrizabalaga”, in 1919 they formed “Arrizabalaga Hermanos”, and in 1920 “Hijos de Calixto Arrizabalaga”, which until 1923 declared a workshop with four employees; It was in this year of 1923 that they registered the SHARP-SOOTER trade mark with the early spelling error which was subsequently corrected.



6.35 mm caliber JO.LO.AR pistol presented to General Oscar Frago Carmona, President of the Portuguese Republic (1928-1951), engraved in gold: EXCMO. SEÑOR GENERAL CARMONA / FABRICA JO.LO.AR; The safety lever is limited to only its barrel tipping function.

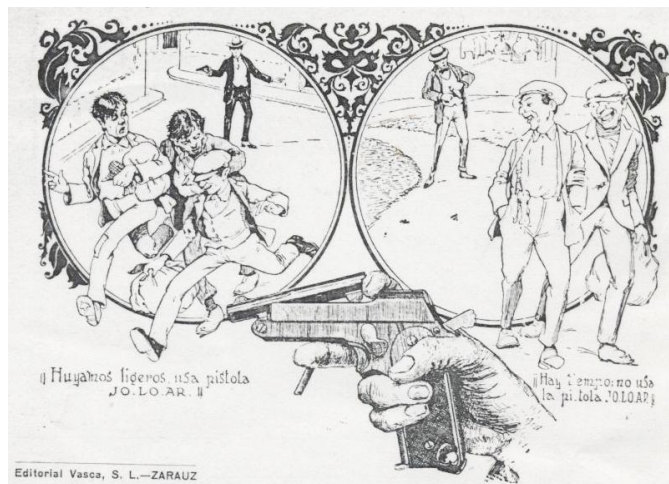
In 1919 D. Jose López Arnaiz obtained a patent for a semiautomatic pistol system where the slide was retracted by a lever actuated by the right hand in such a rapid manner that it was said it obviated the need to carry the weapon with a chambered round and making a safety and even the trigger guard , unnecessary.



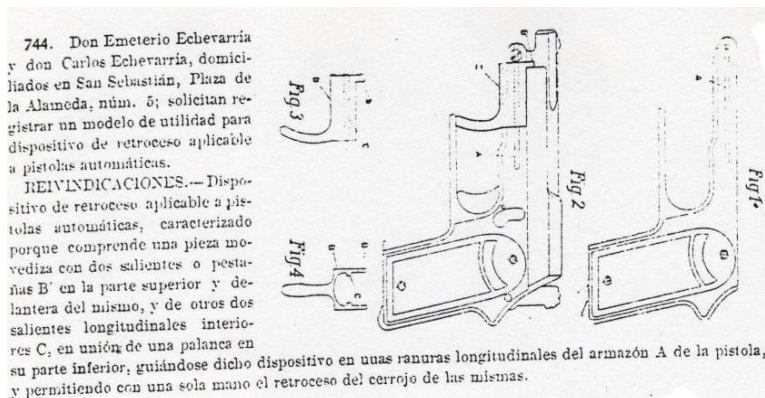
Lopez Arnaiz designed these features gradually and in cooperation with Pedro Altuna and it was not until 1924 that a patent was granted in the name of both partners as: "Pistol improvements by suppressing the trigger guard and safeties by virtue of the JO.LO.AR lever"; The JO.LO.AR trade mark had been registered by Lopez Arnaiz in 1923 using the initial letters of his name and surnames.

He offered his lever system to different manufacturers, including Bonifacio Echeverria, hoping to interest them in using it in some of their products ,but only the firm of "Hijos de Calixto Arrizabalaga" showed any interest in adapting its SHARP SOOTER pistol to the JO.LO.AR lever; Or perhaps instead it ceded Toribio Arrizabalaga's SHARP SOOTER's patent rights to Emeterio and Carlos Echevarria, owners of the "Talleres JO.LO.AR" firm, to whom Lopez Arnaiz had ceded his patent and trade mark rights.

Be that as it may, it was Emeterio and Carlos Echevarria who registered in 1927 the well known JO.LO.AR publicity ad where some hoodlums make their escape, in panic or not, depending on whether their victim carried a JO.LO.AR pistol or not.



López Arnaiz was not the only one in conceiving a system of this type; In 1926 Leopoldo Lopez Garcia obtained a patent for “levers adapted to pistol frames which allow cycling the slide with the same hand that holds the pistol without having to remove the trigger finger from inside the trigger guard”, and in 1932 Emeterio and Carlos Echevarria also applied for a patent as a “utility model” of a system based on the EINHAND pistol made by “Aktiengesellschaft Lignose”, Berlin, which actuated the slide by pressing the front of the trigger guard, in a similar fashion to the Lopez Arnaiz lever.



The JO.LO.AR pistols, with their lever action allowing the absence of safeties and trigger guard were nicknamed “for mancos” (one armed men or women) as they required only one hand to operate, a very descriptive but unreal monicker, as they had not really been designed with “mancos” in mind. There is a anecdote, frequently repeated in Spain, that states that the JO.LO.AR pistol was designed for General José Millan Astray, the one eyed, one armed, one legged, founder of the Spanish Legion and veteran of many battles in North Africa. This is an amusing legend but completely baseless.

It is said that in the late 1920s or early 1930s Peru purchased an uncertain number of 9mm Largo JOLOARs allegedly for its Cavalry; Although we have no other specific information on this "contract" we do know from sources in the USA that around 600 of them were imported in the 1960s, specifically to Miami, Florida.



One of the JO.LO.AR pistols in 9 mm Largo imported in the 1960s from Peru to the USA; Allegedly a surplus gun, one of around 600 from the Peruvian cavalry; wich may have been its only military “contract”; SN 4545 on the lever; Marked: PISTOLA JO.LO.AR EIBAR (España) and: AÑO 1924 PATENTES Nos 68027 Y 70235, and the Eibar rampant lion on the left slide plus a faint 54 (issue number?) and CAL 9 m/m plus early Eibar proofs on the left frame; JO.LO.AR logo on the, finely “checkered” black horn or Bakelite grip panels. (Photos H. J. Meruelo)