MANUAL FOR SOVIET

MOSIN-NAGANT

MODELS OF
1891 -- 1910 -- 1891/30 -- 1938 -- 1944

RIFLES, CARBINES & SNIPER RIFLES

ORDI 7-101

CHAPTER 2

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CHAPTER 2. BOLT ACTION RIFLES AND CARBINES

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SECTION I. GENERAL

5. ORIGIN AND BASIC QUALITIES

The Mosin-Nagant rifle was adopted in 1891 by Imperial Russia. The action of the rifle was developed by Colonel S. I. Mosin of the Imperial Russian Army, and the magazine was developed by Nagant, a Belgian. All Soviet bolt action military rifles and carbines are Mosin-Nagant weapons and all are basically similar to the original Mosin-Nagant rifle adopted by Russia in 1891. These weapons can be considered reasonably effective infantry weapons. Fairly good shooting can be done with them at combat ranges, although their sights do not lend themselves to the finer degrees of accuracy which can be obtained with similar United States weapons. They suffer from an overcomplicated bolt, but in other respects are relatively simple to service and maintain. The safety, in that it is extremely hard to engage and disengage, represents a shortcoming of the weapons.

6. BOLT ACTION RIFLES

a. The original rifle M1891 was considerably different than later versions of the same model. The original rifle M1891 had no handguard, was fitted with sling swivels instead of the sling slots used on later versions, and had a leaf rear sight which was designed for the old conical-nosed 7.62-mm ball cartridge. In 1908 the Spitzer pointed light ball round (which is still used) was introduced and the rear sight was changed. About this time handguards were added and the swivels were replaced by sling slots bored in the stock. The original M1891 is now a collector's item, and is unlikely to be encountered in the field. The later versions of the rifle M1891 (fig. 1) are no longer being manufactured, and are believed to be obsolete.

b. The Dragoon rifle M1891 (fig. 2) was originally developed as a weapon for heavy cavalry. Manufacture of this rifle was discontinued about 1930, when it was replaced by the rifle M1891/30. The Dragoon rifle M1891 is believed to be obsolete, but it may be found in limited quantity in satellite armies.

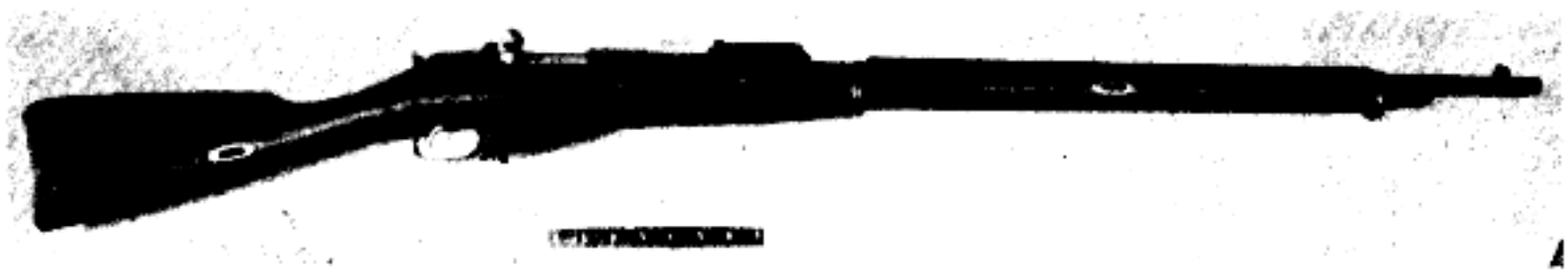

FIGURE 1. 7.62-MM RIFLE M1891.

FIGURE 2. 7.62-MM RIFLE M1891, DRAGOON.

c. The rifle M1891/30 (fig. 3) is about the same length as the M1891 Dragoon, but it represents many improvements over the Dragoon. The sights used on the M1891/30 are superior to those of the Dragoon, and, because the metric system of measurement was adopted in Russia during this period, the sights of the M1891/30 are calibrated in meters rather than in arshins. (One arshin equals 0.71 meters or 0.78 yards.) Manufacture of the M1891/30

FIGURE 3. 7.62-MM RIFLE M1891/30.

d. The sniper rifle M1891/30 (fig. 4), which is basically the M1891/30 adapted for use with a telescope, is a standard weapon in Soviet and satellite armies. The telescopes employed are somewhat similar to those used on United States hunting rifles.

FIGURE 4. 7.62-MM SNIPER RIFLE M1891/30.

7. BOLT ACTION CARBINES

a. Although Imperial Russia adopted the Mosin-Nagant rifle in 1891, a true carbine did not appear until 1910. The carbine M1910 (fig. 5), with its leaf sight and sling slots, has characteristics of both the original and later versions of the rifle M1891. The carbine M1910 has a hexagonal receiver and does not take a bayonet. This model is comparatively rare and is believed to be obsolete.

FIGURE 5. 7.62-MM CARBINE M1910.

b. The carbine M1938 (fig. 6) replaced the M1910. It is similar in many respects to the rifle M1891/30. It has a tangent-type rear sight, hooded front sight, and rounded receiver. It does not take a bayonet. This model may be encountered in Soviet and satellite forces although it is not believed to be manufactured at present.

ILLUSTRATION OMITTED

FIGURE 6. 7.62-MM CARBINE M1938.

c. The carbine M1944 (fig. 7), introduced during the latter part of World War II, is now considered standard. The permanently fixed bayonet folds down along the right side of the carbine stock when not in use. Except for a slightly longer barrel and the addition of the bayonet, the carbine M1944 is identical to the M1938.

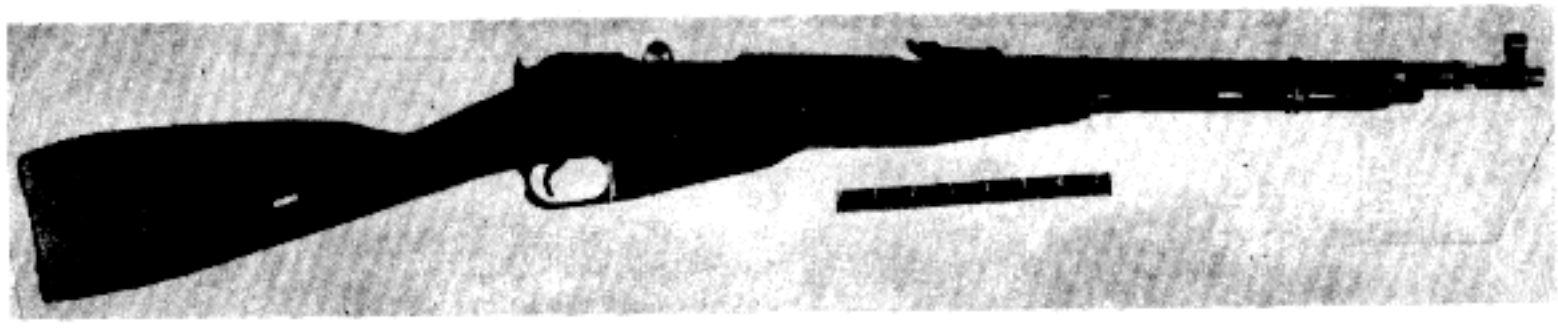

FIGURE 7. 7.62-MM CARBINE M1944.

8. CHARACTERISTICS OF 7.62-MM BOLT ACTION RIFLES AND CARBINES

Basic characteristics of 7.62-mm bolt action rifles and carbines are presented in table I.

Table I. Characteristics of 7.62-mm Mosin-Nagant Bolt Action Rifles and Carbines

Characteristics	Rifle M1891	Dragoon rifle M1891	Rifle M1891/30	Sniper rifle M1891/30	Carbine M1910	Carbine M1938	Carbine M1944
Weight, w/o bayonet & sling	9.63 lb.	8.75 lb.	8.7 lb.	11.3 lb.	7.5 lb.	7.62 lb	.....
w/bayonet & sling	10.63 lb.	9.7 lb.	9.7 lb.	.....	7.7 lb.	....	8.9 lb.
Length, w/o bayonet	51.37 in.	48.75 in.	48.5 in.	48.5 in.	40 in.	40 in.	40 in. (folded)
w/bayonet	68.2 in.	65.5 in.	65.4 in.	65.4 in.	.....	.....	52.25 in. (extended)
Barrel length	31.6 in.	28.8 in.	28.7 in.	28.7 in.	20 in.	20 in.	20.4 in.
Magazine capacity	5 rounds	5 rounds	5 rounds	5 rounds	5 rounds	5 rounds	5 rounds
Instrumental velocity at 78 ft. w/hvy ball	2,660 f.p.s.	2,660 f.p.s.	2,660 f.p.s.	2,660 f.p.s.	2,514 f.p.s.	2,514 f.p.s.	2,514 f.p.s.
Rate of fire	8 - 10 rds./min.	8 - 10 rds./min.	8 - 10 rds./min.	8 - 10 rds./min.	8 - 10 rds./min.	8 - 10 rds./min.	8 - 10 rds./min.
Maximum sighting range	3,200 arshins (2,496 yd.)	3,200 arshins (2,496 yd.)	2,000 meters (2,200 yd.)	2,000 meters* (2,200 yd.)	2,000 arshins (1,560 yd.)	1,000 meters (1,100 yd.)	1,000 meters (1,100 yd.)
Front sight	Unprotected blade	Unprotected blade	Hooded post	Hooded post	Unprotected blade	Hooded post	Hooded post
Rear sight	Leaf	Leaf	Tangent	Tangent	Leaf	Tangent	Tangent
Ammunition	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

*For iron sights when scope is dismounted. Maximum sighting range for the telescopic sight on this weapon is: PE scope: 1,400 meters (1,540 yd.); PU scope: 1,300 meters (1,420 yd.).

**Soviet 7.62-mm rifle and ground machinegun ammunition.

SECTION II. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MODELS

9. RIFLE M1891

The rifle M1891 (fig. 1) is the basic bolt action model. Later bolt action rifle and carbine models are variations and attempted improvements of the M1891.

a. This rifle has a notched-ramp leaf-type rear sight (fig. 2) which has no provision for windage. The sight is graduated from 400 to 2,200 arshins (312 to 1,723 yards).

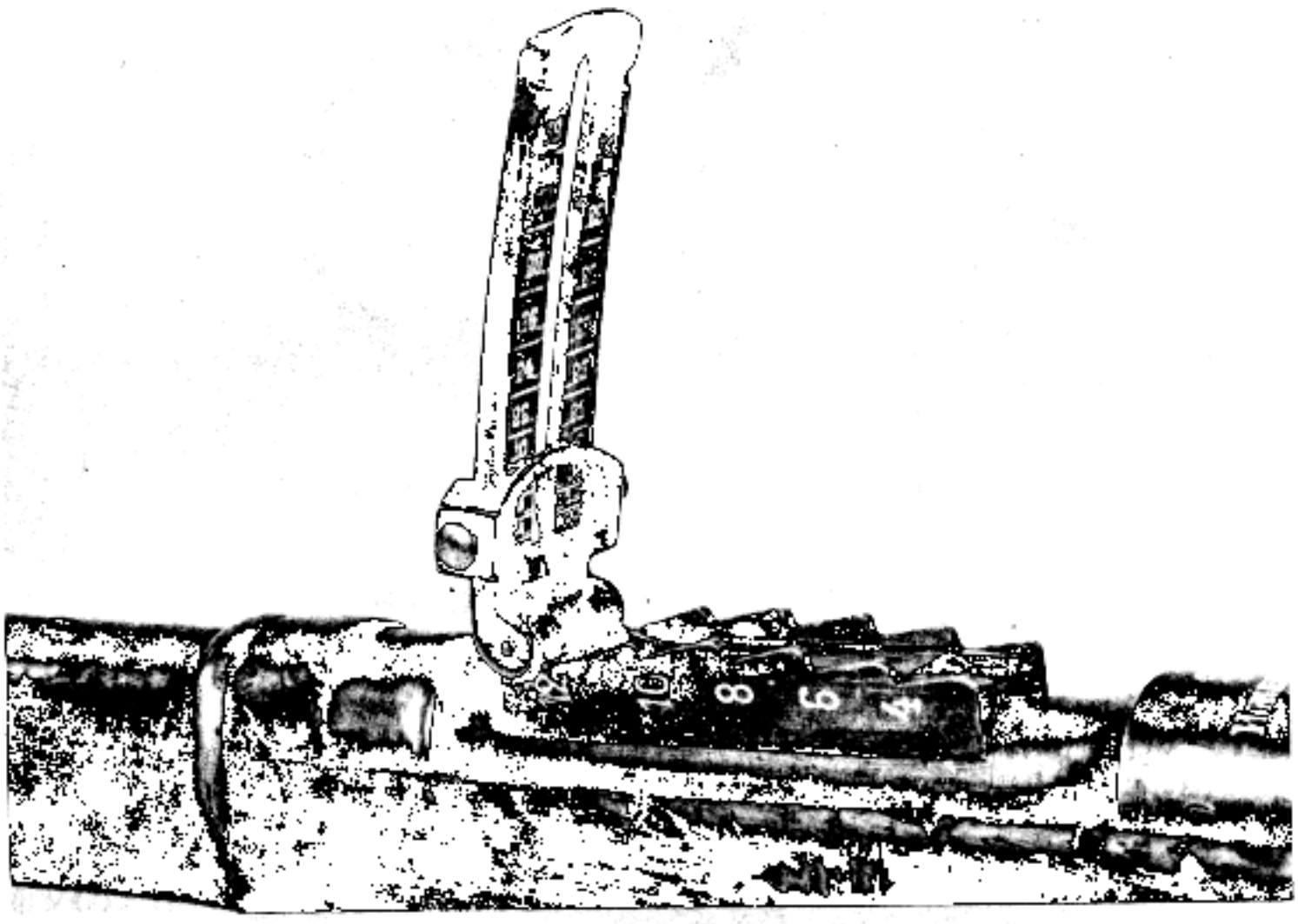

FIGURE 2. REAR SIGHT FOR RIFLE M1891.

b. The front sight is the unprotected blade type of sight.

c. The detachable fluted bayonet (fig. 3), with an offset sleeve for the barrel, is fastened to the rifle by a locking ring.

FIGURE 3. BAYONET FOR RIFLE M1891.

d. The two stock bands (fig. 10) are screw expanded (turn to the right to expand and to the left to close). The upper band is at the forward end of the handguard (fig. 11). The lower band is 2 inches forward of the rear sight.

e. The interrupter-ejector is one piece; it is illustrated in figure 12.

f. This rifle has a hexagonal receiver.

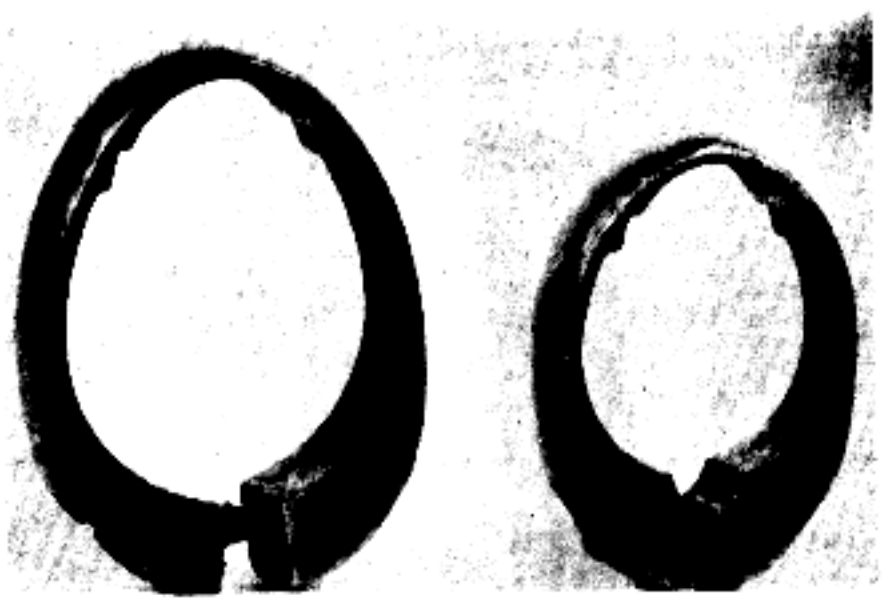

FIGURE 10. STOCK BANDS FOR RIFLE M1891.

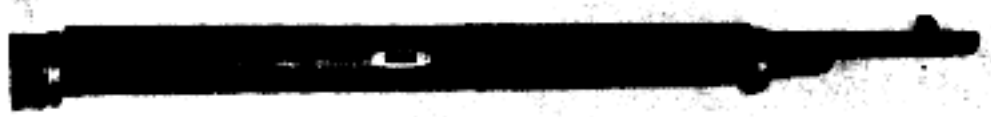

FIGURE 11. LOCATION OF UPPER BAND ON RIFLE M1891.

FIGURE 12. INTERRUPTER-EJECTOR FOR RIFLE M1891.

10. DRAGOON RIFLE M1891

a. The Dragoon rifle M1891 is shorter than the rifle M1891.

b. The front and rear sights are the same as those of the rifle M1891 (par. 9a and b).

c. The bayonet is the same as that of the rifle M1891 (par. 9c).

d. The Dragoon rifle M1891 has solid stock bands (fig. 13). The upper band is placed about 3-1/2 inches from the front end of the stock (fig. 14).