





















SMITH 8 WESSON

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01101



August 28, 1980

Ashaway, Rhode Island 02804

Dear Mr.

We received your letter of recent date in reference to the .38 Regulation Police. This model which was produced on our .32 caliber I frame was introduced in 1917. It was manufactured until 1942 when it was temporarily discontinued as we began full-time wartime production.

At the end of World War II, the handgun was reintroduced and manufactured until 1973 when it was dropped from our product line.

The .38 Regulation Police was designed as a small police revolver. It was equipped with a four-inch barrel and could be purchased in either blue or nickel finish.

This handgun was equipped with a special wood extension style grip which lengthened the grip and compensated for the small I frame grip. Therefore, the serial number was stamped on the front strap of the early model revolvers. In 1956, when the company dropped the I frame, this model was produced on the square butt J frame and the extension wood grip was discontinued.

Research of company records indicate serial number 4245 was shipped from our factory on August 5, 1917, to Iver Johnson Sporting Goods Company of Boston, Mass.

The patent date stamped on the grip is common for this model, this particular patent covers the extension grip.

We hope the information we have provided will be of some interest.

Sincerely,

SMITH & WESSON

R. G. Jinks

Services Operation Manager

Historian

RGJ/gmc.

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