

Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941
 Harold Hoar 1942-1945
 October 16, 2019

Classic Arms & Archery
 180 Moore Dr.
 Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Dear Sirs:

Colt, by means of this letter, is proud to authenticate the manu-
 following serial number:

COLT OFFICER'S MODEL TARGET REVOLV

Serial Number:	636386
Caliber:	.32/c
Barrel Length:	6"
Finish:	Blue
Type of Stocks:	Not Listed
Shipped To:	Sportsman's Supply
Address:	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Date of Shipment:	June 13, 1939
Number of Same Type Guns in Shipment:	1

We trust you will find the historical information, retrieved from the original Colt shipping records, to
 be of interest.

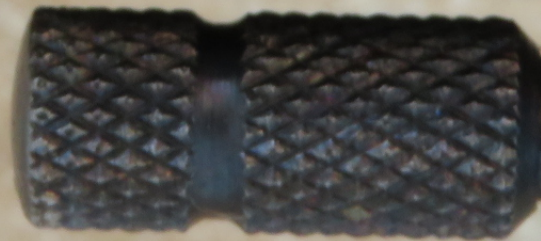
Sincerely,
Beverly Jean Haynes
 Beverly Jean Haynes
 Historian

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OFFICERS MODEL 32 POLICE CTG.
* HEAVY BARREL *







COLT'S PTFA MFR CO HARTFORD, CT U.S.A.
PAT'D AUG 6-1884
JULY 4-1905, OCT 5-1926

PTFA
MFR
CO



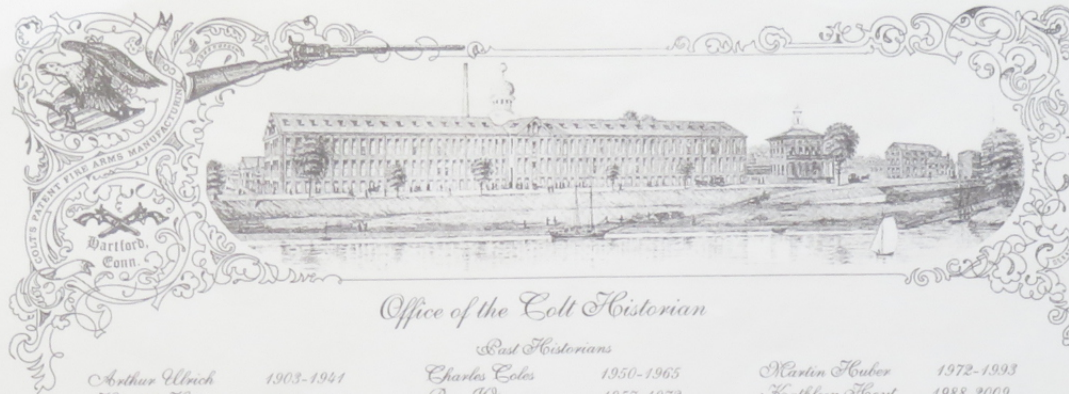












Office of the Colt Historian

Colt Historians

<i>Arthur Ulrich</i>	<i>1903-1941</i>	<i>Charles Coles</i>	<i>1950-1965</i>	<i>Martin Huber</i>	<i>1972-1993</i>
<i>Harold East</i>	<i>1942-1945</i>	<i>Leon Wagner</i>	<i>1957-1972</i>	<i>Kathleen Hoyt</i>	<i>1988-2009</i>

October 16, 2019

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THE OFFICERS MODEL TARGET REVOLVERS (32 AND 38 CALIBERS)

CALIBERS— 32 Colt Police Positive, 32 Long and Short Colt, 32-20, 32 Sharp Shoulder (wad cutter), 38 Long Colt, 38 Colt Special, 38 S & W Special and 38 smoothbore. The 32 calibers were scarce, and the 38 smoothbore was *rare*. 6-shot; 4-, 4½-, 5-, 6-, and 7½-inch barrels.

SERIAL NUMBERS— In sequence with the Army Special (1904 through 1927) and the Official Police standard model (1927 through 1949), *q.v.* The estimated total production of Officers Model Target revolvers: in excess of 15,000. Serial numbered from #229881 (in the year 1904); manufactured from 1904 through 1949. Succeeded by the Officers Model Special Target revolver, and the latter in turn succeeded by the Officers Model Match revolver. Consult table, above, for 22 caliber; see Note for page references to other calibers.

WEIGHT— 33½ (later 34) ounces (6" barrel, 38 caliber).

MARKINGS— Top and right side of *barrel*: Same as on contemporary Army Special and Official Police revolvers.

Left side of *barrel* (1904-c. 1906): COLT D.A. 38.
(c. 1906-c. 1908): OFFICERS MODEL COLT D.A. 38.
(c. 1908-c. 1930): COLT OFFICERS .38
MODEL
(c. 1930-c. 1949): ★ OFFICERS MODEL TARGET [caliber] ★

Note: The *marking* of approximately 1930 through approximately 1949 sometimes was marked beneath: HEAVY BARREL. The Maltese Cross motif is sometimes present bordering the above *markings*.

2. *Rampant colt*, *serial number*, *VP within triangle*, and (when present) *British proofmark* stampings were identical to contemporary Army Special and Official Police models.

FINISH— Blued. Top of frame stippled to prevent reflection and glare (beginning c. 1926). Special finishes (on custom order only; all are *rare*) were: full nickel, silver, or gold plating; blued with gold-plated hammer and cylinder; and blued with gold-plated trigger.

Checked and varnished walnut *grips* through 1911; from c. 1912 through c. 1922 the grips were checkered and varnished with Colt medallion inlays. From c. 1923 the coverage of checkering increased to border above the Colt medallions. In approximately 1949 plastic Coltwood was adopted. Special order grips (all *rare*) were: ivory (usually plain but also in checkered, steer head, and "carved" designs), pearl (usually plain but also in monogram, gold inlay monogram, eagle, Mexican eagle, and steer head designs), stag, hard rubber, and plain walnut.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES— *Barrels*: The Heavy Barrel was available from 1935 through the early 1940's, in 38 caliber only. These are regarded as scarce. 4", 4½", and 5" barrels are quite scarce. The widest variation in barrel lengths was listed from 1932 through 1939: 4", 4½", 5", 6", and 7½". Two 38 smoothbore revolvers were made for exhibition shooter Captain A. H. Hardy.

2. *Cylinders*: Same as Army Special and Official Police models; thus earliest production specimens had cylinders rotating counterclockwise.

3. *Frames*: Checkering standard on both triggerguard straps and backstraps through c. 1908; thereafter checkering on the backstrap was standard. Some of these later revolvers were ordered with checkered triggerstraps. A few pistols were ordered without checkered straps. Another custom order feature was sand blast on the back of the frame; *rare*.

4. *Hammers*: The Ballinger skeletonized hammer is known to have been used on revolver Serial #650194. Checkering was standard throughout production.