

MANUAL FOR SOVIET *MOSIN-NAGANT*

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

RIFLES, CARBINES &
SNIPER RIFLES

ORDI 7-101

CHAPTER 2



ORDNANCE CORPS

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CHAPTER 2. BOLT ACTION RIFLES AND CARBINES

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CHAPTER 2
BOLT ACTION RIFLES AND CARBINES

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.

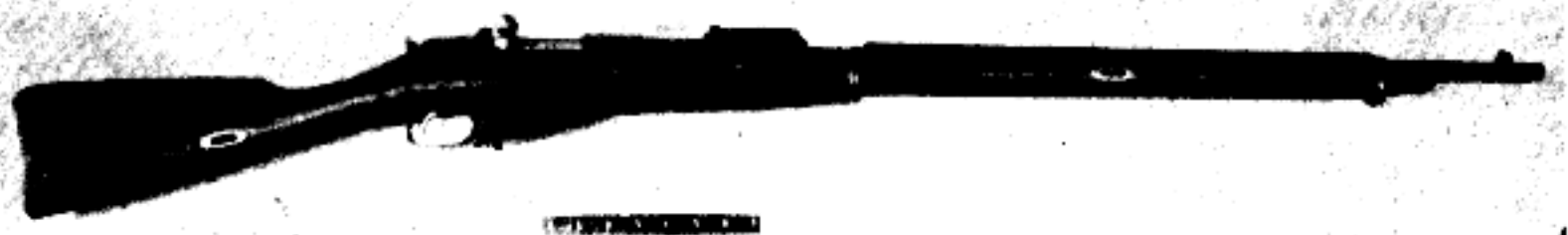


FIGURE 1. 7.62-MM RIFLE M1891.



FIGURE 2. 7.62-MM RIFLE M1891, DRAGOON.