

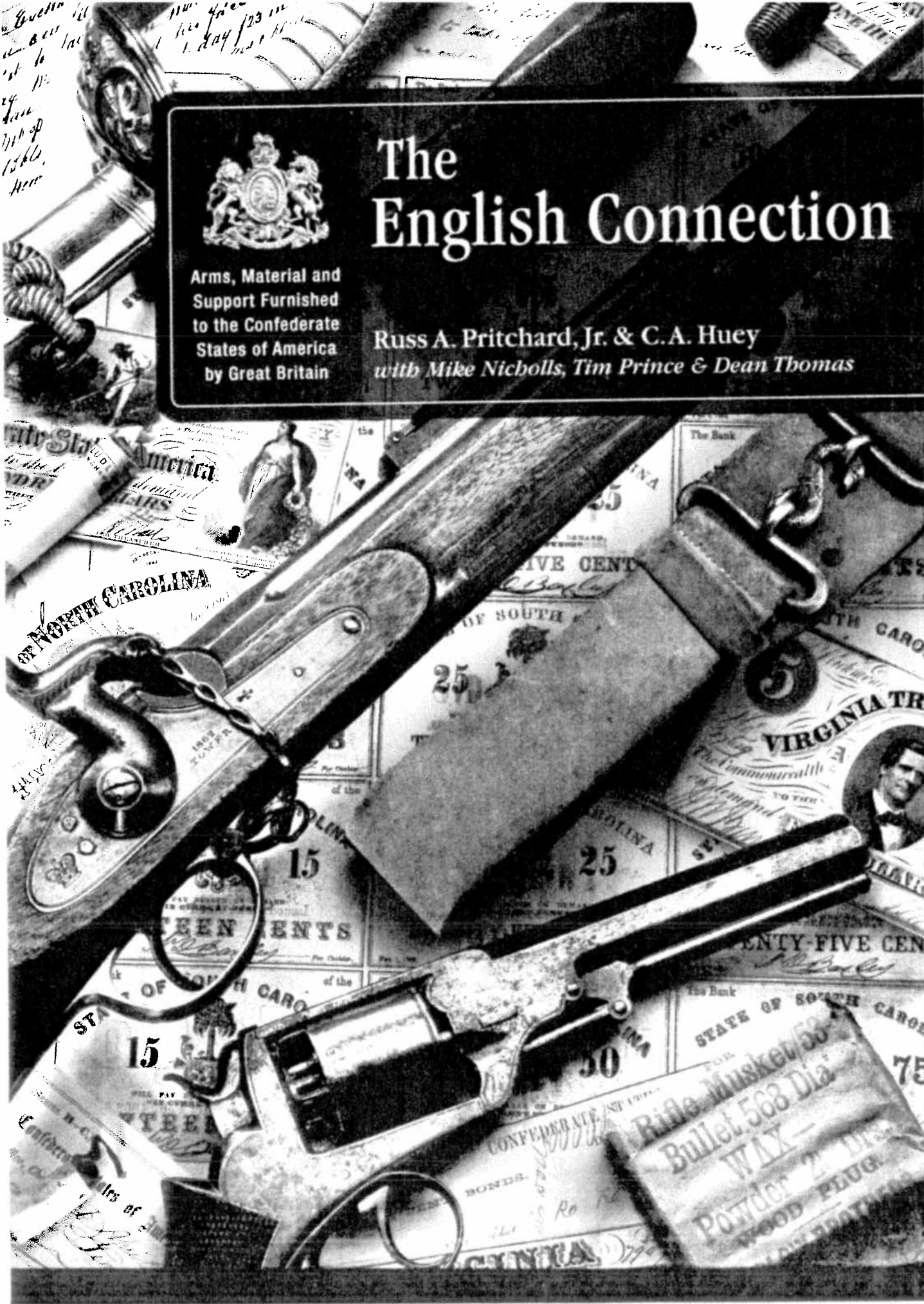


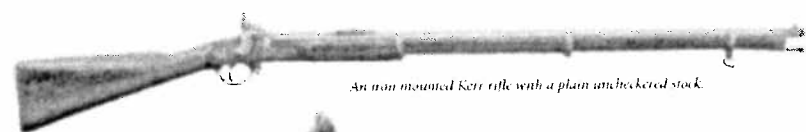
Arms, Material and
Support Furnished
to the Confederate
States of America
by Great Britain

The English Connection

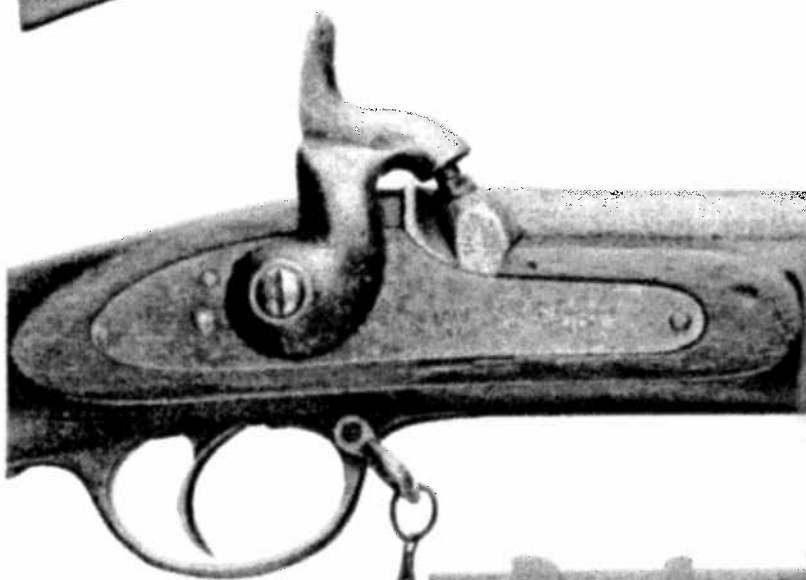
Russ A. Pritchard, Jr. & C.A. Huey

with Mike Nicholls, Tim Prince & Dean Thomas

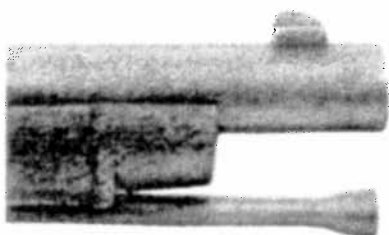




An iron mounted Kerr rifle with a plain uncheckered stock.



The lock area of the iron mounted Kerr rifle with a plain stock.



The muzzle of this rifle showing the fixed front sight and lightly engraved iron nose cap.



Vertical view of an unusual backsight on this Kerr rifle with platinum sighting line.



The breech or neck of this rifle showing the Birmingham proof and 56 bore/436 calibre.

were chosen from each of the five regiments of the brigade, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Kentucky Infantry and Second Lieutenant George Hector Burton was placed in command.³³

Several months later Oladowski submitted an Armament and Ammunition Report of the Army of Tennessee for the week ending on 25 June 1864. In that report he listed a total of 29 rifles of .44 calibre, all in Hardee's Corps. Whitworth rifles are specifically listed separately so it is quite probable that these rifles were Kerr rifles.³⁴ At some point during the intervening months, two rifles were lost or transferred to units outside Hardee's Corps.

In a cover letter some six weeks later for a Consolidated Armament and Ammunition Report sent to Colonel Gorgas dated 4 August 1864, Captain W. D. Humphries, Depot Ordnance Officer of East Point, Georgia, Army of Tennessee states:

We have in this army 38 Whitworth and Kerr's Rifles which are the same cal. and the Whitworth Cartridge is much preferred of which we have no supply in reserve.³⁵

One unusual Kerr rifle has survived. This rifle, part of a late 19th century institutional arms collection since dispersed, was presented by the Confederate veteran who stated he used the rifle during the war. It is iron mounted with standard LAC dome head screws and has a plain stock with no checkering. The lock has the typical crown over "V.R." behind the hammer and "1861" / "L.A.Co." in front of the hammer. The 37-inch barrel, 56 bore (.436 calibre), has definite Birmingham proofs, a distinctive long range backsight with a platinum centre-line on the slider and simple fixed blade front sight, evidently a special order barrel. There is no visible number engraved behind the backsight, probably due to pitting on the barrel, and the bore is too deteriorated to determine if special rifling was present. This was possibly one of the "special target rifles" associated with General Breckenridge.

There is precious little documentation of Kerr rifles used during the war and much of that is vague and ambiguous. What little information there is indicates their use only in the Western Theatre during the latter stages of the war. There is no mention of the use of the Kerr rifle in the Army of Northern Virginia.

There is no question that twenty Kerr rifles were purchased from Sinclair, Hamilton & Company and an unknown Englishman gave General Breckenridge an additional eleven Kerr rifles. Other Kerr rifles were possibly acquired from private sources after they ran the blockade, probably John Fraser & Company of Charleston, as this was the case with thousands of LAC Kerr revolvers as discussed in Chapter Four. The discovery of additional records may increase this number, but currently based on available evidence, it is doubtful if more than fifty Kerr rifles were imported.

Whitworth Rifles

The Whitworth rifle was the brainchild of Sir Joseph Whitworth, a gifted engineer and metallurgist. His use of a hexagonal bore together with a mechanically fitted bullet made his rifles the most accurate long range small arms the world had ever seen. Whitworth began manufacture in 1857 and in 1860 he established the Whitworth Rifle Company in Manchester. The company was reorganized in May of 1862 and became the Manchester Ordnance & Rifle Company. A significant number of variations of Whitworth rifles were manufactured including experimental, sporting, commercial, target and military models, many with special order features, all showing extraordinary craftsmanship. As fabulous as these rifles are, most have no connection with the American Civil War. Some were cased with extra barrels and accessories and others exist in half and full stock configurations. A number are found that were awarded as shooting prizes and have engraved silver plaques affixed denoting the event and the recipient. Nevertheless, the mere mention of any Whitworth rifle causes some measure of excitement for most Civil War collectors because of their historic association with Confederate sharpshooters. Those very few that can be documented as used by Confederate soldiers are invariably 2nd quality military match rifles, most fitted for the Davidson telescopic sight.



An unknown Confederate soldier wearing a slouch hat and overcoat holding a Whitworth rifle with telescope sight.

The English Connection

Second Quality Military Match Rifles

Whitworth rifles were not consistently built in blocks or a particular configuration but instead were fabricated as the flow of orders dictated so the numbering system used adds little to any methodology in the study of the weapons. Early production, regardless of type, were numbered 1 to 1000, the next one thousand had a "B" prefix, then "C" and so forth. Thus, a fine military match rifle could have a consecutive number to a special order sporting arm. Randomly interspersed among production were less expensive 2nd quality military match rifles that have long been associated with Confederate service, the lowest known number being "B 509" mounting a Davidson telescopic sight with provenance to General A. P. Stewart who donated the rifle to the Tennessee Historical Society in the 19th century. The rifle subsequently became part of the collections of the Tennessee State Museum. The highest known number is "C 619" also mounting a Davidson telescopic sight in the Richard D. Stewart Collection at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Only nineteen 2nd quality rifles are known to survive.

The term "2nd quality" should not be interpreted to mean these particular rifles were of lesser quality. This description applies to the external finish which lacked the fine engraving found on some of the other rifles. Mechanically, these rifles were as finely built as other Whitworth products.

The Whitworth rifle used by Confederate sharpshooters is 49 inches long overall with a 33-inch barrel, .52 bore/.451 calibre, with Whitworth's distinctive hexagonal bore. The barrel, which has no provision for either socket or sabre bayonet, is marked "WHITWORTH PATENT" between the backsight and the breech and has a rifle number or serial number on the left side of the barrel in line and adjacent to the Birmingham proof marks. There is some question about who made Whitworth barrels and it appears Whitworth, while he made some, did not make all of them. Regardless of maker, those barrels seen have Birmingham proofs. These numbers without prefix are also found on the shank of the ramrod and on the interior surfaces of each piece of the Davidson scope mount components. The backsight is a simple folding type mounted reversed with graduations to 1,200 yards on the right side of the ladder and 1 to 5.5 degrees on the left side of the ladder. The barrel is held by two conventional clamping bands, the front band with a swivel attached. The back swivel is attached to a wood screw that is set in the trigger guard tang well behind the trigger guard. The plan lock is engraved in one line "WHITWORTH RIFLE CO. MANCHESTER" in front of the hammer and has a crown over "W" behind the hammer. The walnut stock of most is checkered at the wrist and forearm and in most cases extends to within about one-inch of the muzzle although several have been noted with plain stocks and others with the nose

cap about four inches from the end of the barrel. No specific marks have been observed on the stock. One of the key identifying features is engraved on the trigger guard tang between the two retaining screws, the designation "2nd QUALITY".

There appears to be two variations of the engraving of "2nd QUALITY". One type encountered in the B series uses a Q that first appears to the eye as a fancy numeral 2 while the C series uses a Q that looks like a conventional Q, suggesting a change in engravers during production.



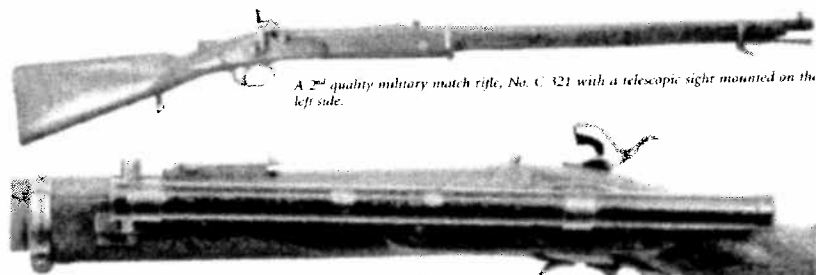
The "2nd QUALITY" mark found on Whitworth rifle, No. B 547. Note the two lines under the "nd" in 2nd and the Q in QUALITY appears to be the numeral 2.



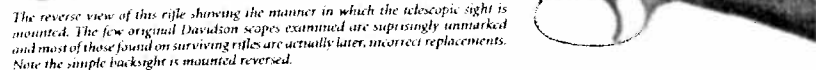
The "2nd QUALITY" mark found on Whitworth rifle, No. C 529. Note the lack of any lines under "nd" in 2nd and Q in QUALITY appears to be of conventional design.

The detachable Davidson telescopic sight is mounted on the left side of the rifle parallel to the barrel and is devoid of any markings. The mounts were patented on 19 December 1862 but they too are unmarked except for the number of the rifle without a prefix on an internal surface. The body of the telescopic sight is 14.5 inches long with a black enameled brass body about .9375 inch in diameter with a cross wire reticule. Most of the Davidson telescopic sights found on Whitworth rifles today are modern reconstructions using 20th century optics. Originally, there was probably some type of protective leather carrying case issued with the sight but none has been identified. A globe sight was reported used on some Whitworth rifles issued to the Army of Northern Virginia.²⁰ No such sight has actually been noted on a rifle with credible Confederate provenance.

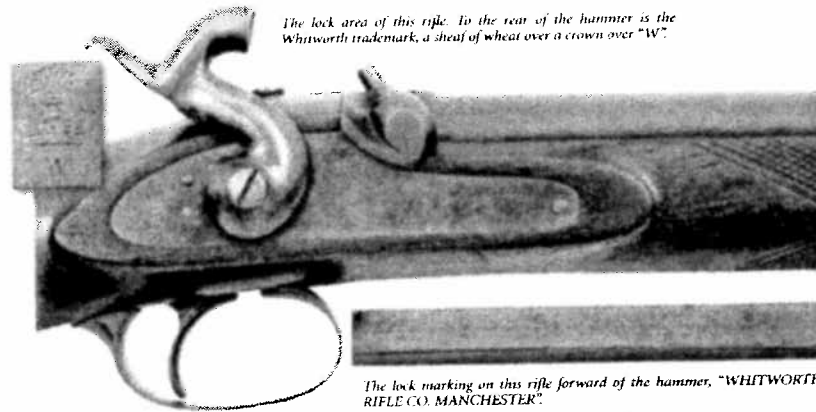
The first mention of the purchase of Whitworth rifles appears in Major Anderson's diary on Tuesday, 2 July 1861. Anderson wrote, "I prevailed on [Joe] Battersby to go with me to the Whitworth Foundry. Before leaving Whitworth's establishment this morning we bought two of his rifles. He asks enormously for them." No further mention of these rifles has been found and it is not known if Anderson brought them with him when he returned to Georgia in late 1861. A post-war remittance



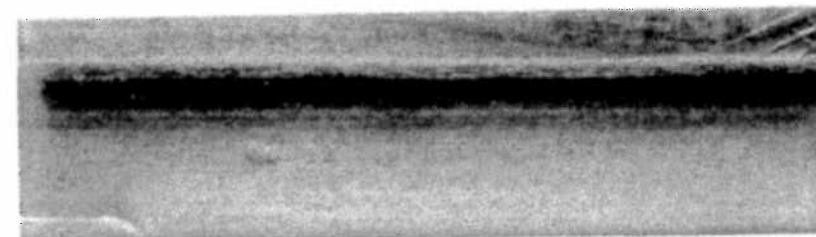
A 2nd quality military match rifle, No. C 321 with a telescopic sight mounted on the left side.



The reverse view of this rifle showing the manner in which the telescopic sight is mounted. The few original Davidson scopes examined are surprisingly unmarked and most of those found on surviving rifles are actually later, incorrect replacements. Note the simple backsight is mounted reversed.



The lock marking on this rifle forward of the hammer, "WHITWORTH RIFLE CO. MANCHESTER".



The left side of the barrel this rifle, No. C 321 showing the number, Birmingham proofs and .52 bore.

states that the Whitworth rifle, "...was imported by the Ordnance Bureau of the Confederate States at a cost of about \$1,000, in the equivalent of gold, for each rifle and one thousand rounds of ammunition."²²

The Davidson telescopic sight is not mentioned with the rifle so it is unclear if that cost included the sight. Even allowing for the passage of thirty years and the age of the writer, assuming the figure is reasonably accurate, Anderson's comment is an understatement. Unfortunately, no government purchase documents have been located at this time.

There is no question that the Whitworth rifle was used by the Army of Northern Virginia and the western armies although accounts of its use come predominately from Western Theatre sources. William A. Albaugh notes:

In the spring 1863 Confederate Ordnance imported one dozen long range Whitworth rifles. Six were sent to the Army of Northern Virginia, and two to each Corps for their best marksmen. The others were sent to the Western Army."

The source of this information is not provided. One of the very few instances of the use of the Whitworth rifles by elements of the Army of Northern Virginia was recorded when General James Longstreet, with the divisions of Hood and McLaws, was detached and sent west to reinforce General Braxton Bragg during the Chickamauga Campaign in September 1863. An illustration that appeared in the *Illustrated London News* and *Harpers Weekly* portrayed Whitworth sharpshooters of Longstreet's Corps firing on a Federal



This wood engraving from the 3 December 1863 issue of the Illustrated London News by British correspondent Frank Vicerelli depicts Whitworth armed sharpshooters of Longstreet's Corps on detached duty from the Army of Northern Virginia firing on a Federal wagon train across the Tennessee River from Kaccoon Mountain. Unfortunately there is not enough detail to actually identify these rifles but Vicerelli did so in his comments.

wagon train in the mountains of west Tennessee. 1st Lieutenant Robert T. Cole, 4th Alabama Infantry remembered:

We had brought our Whitworth rifles from Virginia with us....I saw one of the Whitworth rifles, an English gun with Globe sight carrying a large ball, a few of which ran the blockade, in the hands of one of our sharpshooters, kill two mules with one shot, the heavy missile passing through their necks."

As far as use in the Western Theatre is concerned, on 29 May 1863 Colonel Gorgas wrote General Braxton Bragg commanding the Army of Tennessee that he had ordered Captain E. T. Trezevant at Charleston Arsenal to send him:

...for the use of sharpshooters 20 Whitworth (telescopic) Rifles recently imported from England. These arms are reported to be very effective at 1200 yards...they be placed in the hands of careful and reliable men only as they are very costly & so costly indeed that it is not deemed expedient to increase the number already brought in."

Gorgas' statement indicates that there was no further government importation of Whitworth rifles by Confederate Ordnance after May of 1863. General Bragg forwarded the letter to his Chief of Ordnance, Lt. Colonel Hypolite Oladowski, at Tullahoma, Tennessee on 3 June 1863 "...who will issue one of these guns to each brigade, to be placed in the hands of one of the most skillful sharpshooters."²³

An invoice of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores turned over to Major Jas. M. Kennard in Tullahoma, Tennessee on 15 June 1863 included two Whitworth rifles, two telescopes, two gun slings, two bullet moulds, and four spare cones.²⁴ On 20 June 1863, Colonel Gorgas wrote to Lt. Colonel Oladowski that 20,000 rounds have been sent to General Bragg with the 20 Whitworth (telescopic) rifles.²⁵ This Gorgas letter, seen on the next page, appears to confirm the statement made by the writer of the reminiscence previously quoted that 1,000 rounds accompanied each rifle. Records of Augusta Arsenal indicate eighteen Whitworth rifles with telescopes, moulds and slings were forwarded to the Charleston, South Carolina Arsenal on 13 July 1863.²⁶

Captain John W. Gillespie, the military store keeper in Mobile, ordered:

...transportation of 6 Whitworth Rifles Complete, including 16 Telesc. Sight, 6 Gun Slings, 3 Moulds for Whit. Rifle, 2000 Whitworth Rifle Cartridges and 3 packing cases to Brigadier General James Cantey on June 12, 1864."

Lt. Col. Hypolite Oladowski in his Armament and Ammunition Report of the Army of Tennessee dated 19 June 1864, reported three Whitworth rifles in Hood's Corps and twenty three Whitworth rifles in the Army

Confederate States of America,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ORDNANCE BUREAU,

Richmond, May 29, 1863.

General

I have directed Capt. J. T. Trezevant, Commanding of Arsenal Charleston to send to you for the use of sharpshooters 20 Whitworth (Telescopic) Rifles recently imported from England.

These arms are reported to be very effective at 1200 yards. I have the honor to request that they may be placed in the hands of careful and reliable men only as they are very costly, so costly indeed that it is not deemed expedient to increase the number already brought in.

Ammunition and a copy of instructions for their use will accompany the arms.

Very Respectfully

Yours truly

Warren Coleman

Chief of Ordnance

Gen Braxton Bragg
Commanding
Tullahoma Tenn

²²Letter from Colonel Gorgas to General Bragg dated 29 May 1863 advising him that "20 Whitworth (Telescopic) Rifles" had been sent to the Army of Tennessee from the Charleston Arsenal and that due to cost, no more would be imported. Courtesy of the National Archives

of the Mississippi, for a total of twenty six. The same formations had 173 and 3,140 rounds of ammunition respectively for a total of 3,313 Whitworth cartridges.⁶⁷ A week later on 25 June 1864, Oladowski reported three Whitworth rifles in Hood's Corps and twenty nine Whitworth rifles in the Army of the Mississippi, for a total of thirty two. This document refers to the largest number of Whitworth rifles in one instance found to date. The same formations had 193 and 3,250 rounds of ammunition respectively for a total of 3,443 Whitworth cartridges.⁶⁸

There is no doubt that marksmen with Whitworth rifles moved about as needed. It must be noted that the transfer of rifles from one facility to another, while seemingly frequent, never enumerated any appreciable amount of rifles indicating that the presence of Whitworth rifles was actually quite limited. Possibly other Whitworth rifles were acquired from private sources in spite of Gorgas' letter in May 1863, after they ran the blockade, possibly from John Fraser & Company of Charleston. No evidence has been found of any Whitworth rifles being surrendered at the end of the war, nor is there any mention of them in post war government sales. The discovery of additional records may increase this number but at present, based on evidence that is available, it seems doubtful if more than fifty Whitworth rifles were imported during the war.

It has become apparent in recent years that existing Whitworth rifles and other British long range rifles have been modified or enhanced to give the impression that they are actually Confederate sharpshooter's rifles. Modifications have included engraved attributions, spurious 2nd quality marks engraved on the trigger guard tang and the fitting of incorrect telescopic sights to some rifles. When considering the purchase of such a rifle, extreme caution should be taken.

Wilson Rifle

The Wilson breech-loading rifle is the rarest and one of the most technologically advanced English arm imported by the Confederacy during the war. Covered by Patents 685 and 1318 in 1859 and 1860 respectively, only seven military pattern short rifles are known at this time, three are in institutions and four are in private collections. Examination of these arms indicates three distinct variations arbitrarily designated the early, transitional and late types.

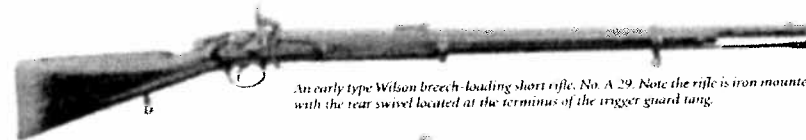
The rifle is 48.5 inches long overall with a 33-inch barrel with Birmingham proofs. The top of the breech bolt in all variations is engraved in two lines, "T. WILSON'S PATENT". The serial number appears on the barrel beside the cone seat in front of the loading aperture and on the left side of the bolt on two components. Numbers on the early type are "A 12", "A 29", and "A 84". The transitional rifle is "221", no A prefix, and numbers on the late type are "2A 5025", "2A

5048" and "2A 5059". There is no apparent correlation between the serial numbers of the transitional type and the numbers on the early and late type. One early type and one late type have been disassembled and the barrels of each are marked on the bottom by the maker, Henry Clive. The transitional and late pattern rifle barrels have five lands and grooves as found on the Pattern 1858 naval short rifle and Pattern 1860 short rifle.

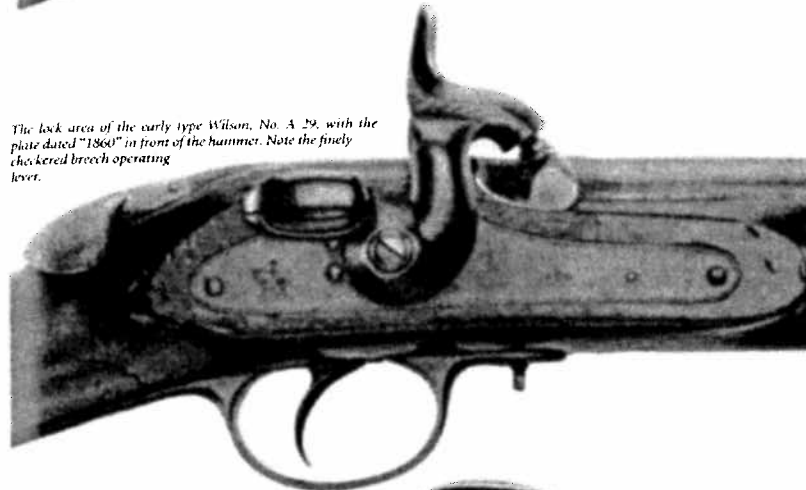
The early type is .54 calibre and the barrel has standard Birmingham proofs. This rifle has an iron butt plate, trigger guard and stock tip. The breech bolt has a decidedly beaver tail shaped operating latch that is deeply checkered and the lock is dated "1860" which is stamped with a die in front of the hammer. Swivels are located at the rear of the trigger guard tang and on the front barrel band in the manner of the Pattern 1856 iron mounted short rifle. The backsight is the standard sight found on short rifles with gradations to 1,100 yards. One example has a third swivel mounted on the rear barrel band. This early type rifle was likely the pattern shipped on *Bamberg* to Havana and destined for the showrooms of J. Schofield, Sons & Goodman in New Orleans, according to a sworn statement of Archibald McLaurin, an agent for that company, made 10 July 1862 to Major General Benjamin Butler while in Federal custody.⁶⁹

The transitional example is 28 bore/.55 calibre with five lands and grooves and Birmingham proofs. The rifle has a brass butt plate, trigger guard and stock tip. The butt plate has a trap accessed by a hinged door. Two cavities therein are now empty. Size suggests they contained an oiler and some sort of gun tool. This transitional type retains the beaver tail shaped operating latch of the early type and the same placement of the sling swivels. The lock is dated "1861", but the date is engraved rather than stamped. The barrel bears a small proof, a crown surmounting the initials "TW", meaning Thomas Wilson, in front of the loading aperture, and the number "221". The serial number is repeated in two locations on the left side of the bolt, the bottom of the bolt key and the concave bottom of the beaver tail operating latch. The bayonet bar with extended key and the bottom of the elevating ladder of the backsight are marked with the numeral "1".

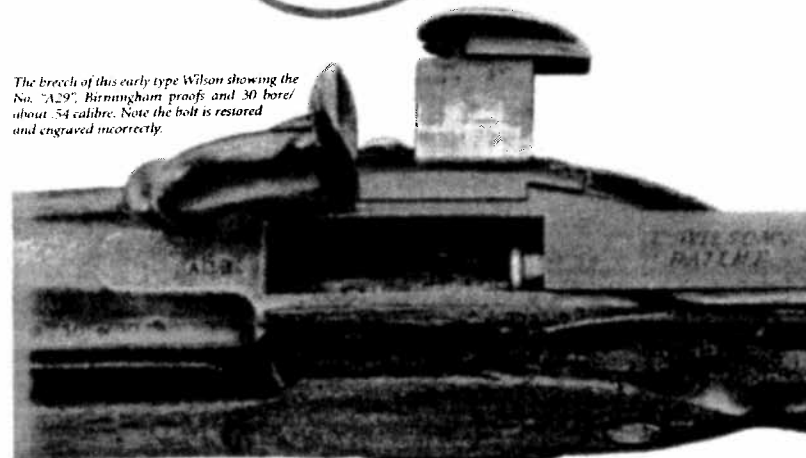
The late type is 30 bore/.54 calibre and has a brass butt plate, trigger guard and nose cap. The breech bolt operating latch is the same as that found on the earlier types. The lock is dated "1863" and the numerals are die stamped as was the early type. Swivels are located on the front of the trigger guard and on the front band as in the Pattern 1858 naval rifle. The top of the patent breech bolt is engraved "T. WILSON'S PATENT" in two lines.



An early type Wilson breech-loading short rifle, No. A 29. Note the rifle is iron mounted with the rear swivel located at the terminus of the trigger guard tang.



The lock area of the early type Wilson, No. A 29, with the plate dated "1860" in front of the hammer. Note the finely checkered breech operating lever.



The breech of this early type Wilson showing the No. "A29", Birmingham proofs and 30 bore/about .54 calibre. Note the bolt is restored and engraved incorrectly.

DAVID W. TAYLOR
CIVIL WAR ANTIQUES
P. O. BOX 87
SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560
(419) 882-5547

December 5th 1990

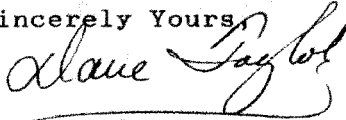
Dear Tom,

I just wanted to follow up your phone call to tell you that the Whitworth rifle we discussed was sold prior to your call by one day. If you are seriously looking for such a weapon, please let me know and I will make an attempt to locate one for you.

I have also enclosed a copy of my most recent catalog. Perhaps something will interest you.

Please stay in touch, and keep me posted on which items you need to fill out your collection.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Taylor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Dave Taylor".

Dave Taylor

(419) 882-5547

CIVIL WAR ANTIQUES

BUY, SELL, APPRAISE

David W. Taylor

P.O. Box 87

Sylvania, OH 43560

Purveyor of fine Historical Americana

March 26th 1991

Dear Tom,

Some weeks ago you called requesting a Whitworth rifle. I later located a civilian example, which subsequently sold while you were thinking about it, and now I have an opportunity to offer a true Confederate imported and used specimen. I am writing to determine your level of interest.

As you may know, civilian Whitworth's are relatively common and generally priced in the low four figures. Of the 250 Confederate Whitworths purchased by the Confederate government only eight were known to survive until this month. The ninth has just been located and I will be able to offer it in the next week or so.

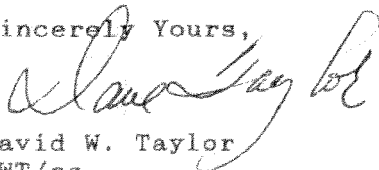
This ninth known specimen is 100% original with the correct markings, configuration, and serial number. It is in "attic found" condition and can be considered an extreme rarity with national significance. In my lifetime I have only seen one change hands and that was many years ago at a price of \$10,500.00. The price on this piece will not exceed \$17,500.00 U.S. dollars. It is 100% guaranteed and will be accompanied by letters of authentication and letters of appraisal at \$17,500.00 from myself and Le Juneau Gallery of New York.

I was contacted by Mr. Juneau this afternoon about this weapon as he knew that I have customers seeking legitimate examples. He purchased it sight unseen with an associate in Atlanta immediately upon its discovery, and it will be sold within the next three weeks.

Please give me a call to let me know your level of interest. I realize that the purchase price is a significant sum, but I can assure you that the rarity of the piece justifies every cent. It will stand as one of the top Confederate used weapons known to exist, and should prove to be a strong investment for the future.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Yours,



David W. Taylor
DWT/ss

(419) 882-5547

CIVIL WAR ANTIQUES

BUY, SELL, APPRAISE

David W. Taylor

P.O. Box 87

Sylvania, OH 43560

Purveyor of fine Historical Americana

April 8th 1991

Dear Tom,

Enclosed please find the snapshots of the Confederate Whitworth rifle. The notes on the photos are pretty much self explanatory, but please feel free to call for specific data.

If you want to, it is possible to mount a correct telescopic sight on this gun. I can give you more details on this element as well.

As you can see from the photos, the gun is in untouched "attic found" condition, and in fact was removed from an attic by the first buyer. I have personally examined the gun and can attest that it has not been "buggered" by any back-room gunsmith, or "Handy Andy". It is 100% honest and original, and is so guaranteed in writing.

As for specific aspects to the condition of the Whitworth it is in solid N.R.A. "very good" condition, which is extremely strong for any Confederate firearm. It is overall deep brown patina, with some pitted area near the bolster. It is absolutely untouched with fine wood, excellent markings (the correct ones), and the soldier's initials carved beautifully into the underside of the stock. The ramrod is missing but can be replaced. It is highly appealing.

Please give me a call if you have further questions. The gun is 100% guaranteed and carries a full three day inspection period and unconditional return privilege. It carries a lifetime guarantee to be original, correct, and as described.

I will look forward to your response.

Sincerely Yours,



Dave Taylor
DWT/ss



ALTON (618) 465-5521
FAX (618) 465-5529
ST. LOUIS (314) 741-5660

FOUNDRIY PRODUCTS

ALUMINUM CASTINGS · DIE CAST ROTORS · PRODUCTION MACHINING
P. O. BOX 8188 · 4131 ALBY ST. · ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002

April 29, 1991

Dear John:

You and your book are very hard to track down. Finally, after contacting two of your local Georgia Lawyers, I got your phone number, and am ordering five books to give to friends. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed reading it. You put a tremendous amount of research and effort into its writing.

I own C329 Barrel Proofed and "52" Proof "52" with "2nd Quality" on the trigger guard. It has JSW beautifully carved in the wood ahead of the trigger guard. It is missing the ram rod and has no scope. I would like to find both of those along with any other accouterments available. I would also like to track down some history on it. Any suggestions on how to accomplish this would be appreciated. Do you know, or anyone know, how many of these Confederate pieces are still in existence? After reading your book over and over, I'm still full of questions.

Again, thanks.

Most sincerely yours,

T. K. Hutchinson

TKH:las

Le Juneau Gallery

SPECIALIZING IN FINE ART

944 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021

(212) 737-1776

June 27th 1991

Dear Tom,

I am writing regarding the Whitworth rifle you recently purchased from Dave Taylor at Civil War Antiques in Ohio.

The weapon is a "fresh find" turned up by one of my pickers, and purchased by me in partnership with John Sexton of Stone Mountain Relics in Georgia.

The Whitworth is 100% "as found" and original (lacking ramrod and telescopic sight) and can be considered rare by anyone's standards. The value of the gun is fairly assessed at between \$15,000.00 and \$18,000.00 US funds.

I hope this information is useful.

Cordially,


George W. Juno
New York City

1-10-92

Tom,

I have enjoyed working with the Whitworth rifle - the book too is certainly well put together. I hope the pictures will be to your satisfaction.

In the book it is stated —

P. 17

"The mean deviation at five hundred yards was four and one-half while the best recorded for any rifle previously tried was twenty seven." - Four what inches, yards?

P. 24

P. 9

"with a blade front sight adjustable for windage". Under the lower picture - "The wheel was to correct for windage adjustments on the Davidson scope" - No way.

Proof marks on the barrel are —

Crown over BP - BIRMINGHAM PROVISIONAL PROOF.

Crossed scepters over ~~B/G~~_P = BIRMINGHAM PROOF MARK

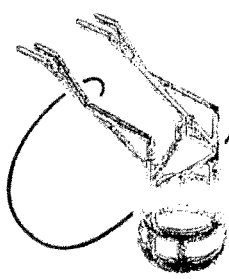
INDICATES THAT A PROOF LOAD WAS FIRED.

Crossed scepters over ~~V~~ = BIRMINGHAM VIEWED

MARK. INDICATES THAT AFTER FIRING THE BARREL WAS VIEWED TO ASCERTAIN LACK OF DAMAGE DUE TO FIRING.

52 - BORE SIZE IN NO. OF LEAD BALLS PER LB. FOR .45 CAL.

With regard to ALVORD - HE could have been a private contractor making brass castings for Winchester!
(OVER) etc.



Hutchinson

FOUNDURY PRODUCTS

ALUMINUM CASTINGS · DIE CAST ROTORS · PRODUCTION MACHINING
P. O. BOX 8188 · 4131 ALBY ST. · ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002

ALTON (618) 465-5521
FAX (618) 465-5529
ST. LOUIS (314) 741-5660

January 16, 1992

Dear John:

Approximately six weeks ago I talked to you on my Whitworth and said I would send photos when available. I would appreciate your comments, at your convenience.

I have also enclosed a catalog from Rutgers Book Catalog that I think you should investigate and have your book listed in it. I will see Mark Aziz this weekend and will tell him he may be hearing from you.

Thanks for any help you can give me.

Most sincerely yours,

T. K. Hutchinson

TKH/lkh
Enclosures

Mr. T.K. Hutchinson
Alton, Illinois :

Jan'y. 24, 1992.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,
Thank you for your letter, book list,
and photos of your very fine Whitworth rifle (am
I to return - or keep them?)

These pictures are very interesting - in fact,
if I reprint my book (updated edition) I would like
to ask your permission to use photo nos. 9202-9 ("2nd Quality"
inscription/rifle) & 9202-20 (interior view of lock/Whitworth).

After studying your rifle-pictures I will state the
following opinions :

- 1) This is a "typical" (in the generic use of the word) Confederate
Whitworth (2nd Quality, snub-nose barrel, & stock looks "field-used"),
- 2) The barrel-band(s) were not to be removed (this regulation
was Confederate wartime, even for standard Enfield, Springfield,
etc. rifles : Gen'l. Cleburne once sternly warned a soldier
during an inspection about this; mentioned "Pat Cleburne, Confederate
General, by Howell & Elizabeth Purdue)

There is a good reason for this regulation - as a barrel tends to
"settle" into the stock, ^{by firing continuously} if removed from the stock - the barrel
will lose its original alignment - an especial consideration in a ss. weapon

- 3) Numbers match - barrel bands typical - all good characteristics.
Your rifle brings (to me) more questions -

- 1) What is the background on this rifle (a C.W. veteran,
previous owners, origin, etc.?)
- 2) Any idea about initials "JSW"? Although many C.W. arms
have soldiers' names/initials cut into stocks - this would almost
certainly not have been the case with a wartime Whitworth -
as the rifle was issued but only held by a sharpshooter
while in the capacity of a sharpshooter: since these men lost heavily.

due to the enemy's "attention" of them - these guns, apparently, were fairly frequently "rotated" to men (previously proven exceptional "shots and thoroughly reliable) from previous users (sharpshooters) who were recovering from wounds - or dead. It is not likely that a sharpshooter cut the "JSW" into the stock unless 1) he was the last "user" and came home from the war with it or - 2) it was a "capture" (rare) and that is a Union man's initials or - 3) it belonged to a post-war owner (probably the most likely of the three considerations). I think a sharpshooter who cut initials into a Whitworth would have been in "hot water," though this was fairly common to Enfields and lesser arms.

I would suggest that, if at all possible, a picture be made of the sight picture through the scope (crosshair view) as fewer details are available about the (Davidson scope) than the Whitworth rifle. Some scopes were apparently mounted at the Macon, Georgia Confederate arsenal. That will require some pretty fine photography - but a sight picture/crosshair view would be a "first."

As far as I can tell - your Whitworth is about as "typical Confederate" that I've seen. You are very lucky. I would suggest that you make serious efforts to learn who and where this rifle passed. That will tell you very much.

As I said, I hope you will consider my request to use (2) pictures of your rifle. You, of course, would be credited. Don Triani (C.W. artist) said that he liked my book so much that he planned, eventually, to render a Whitworth sharpshooter painting. Thanks for your interest and please advise me about your pictures.

Sincerely,

John A. Weaver

graduated to 1,200 yards while the front sight provides for side adjustment. The caliber is .45 and the rifling is upon Henry's principle, consisting of seven grooves, .03 inch of the original bore being left between each groove as lands. The twist is right handed, uniform, one turn in 22 inches, the grooves .009 deep at breech and .007 at muzzle. This is the rifling used in the famous Martini-Henry arm which was the standard of the British service for many years after its adoption in 1871.

The bottom side of the barrel carries the Gunmaker's Company (London) proof marks, the provisional proof being the letters G. P. in script interlaced in a cipher surmounted by a lion rampant and the definite proof mark of G. P. surmounted by a crown and the view mark being the letter V surmounted by a crown. The top of the barrel is marked, Henry's Patent Rifling.

WHITWORTH RIFLE

Figure 3, Plate XXIII

This rifle is of particular interest to students of Confederate arms as it is believed to be the only one of the imported arms that was used exclusively by the South who used them in small numbers for arming sharpshooters. They were an accurate and powerful weapon—good for a range of half a mile and were responsible for the taking off of many a Federal officer.

The specimen shown is marked on the lock plate Whitworth Rifle Co., Manchester and on top of the barrel Whitworth Patent. Length of barrel, 33 inches. Total length of arm, 49 inches. The bore is hexagonal. Caliber .45, using an elongated bullet weighing 530 grains. The twist is one in twenty inches. The arm is an exceptionally well made piece—iron mounted throughout and besides the regular sight equipment, is provided with attachments for a telescope sight to be mounted on the left side of the gun. The stock is nicely checkered and the arm has all of the characteristics of the highest type sporting piece. All parts bear the serial number 554.

In the year 1852 when the British Ordnance department conducted extensive experiments to test the comparative merits of various rifles submitted to the Government they found a

FIREARMS OF THE CONFEDERACY

wide variation in the accuracy obtainable. Whitworth, one of the leading technicians of the day, was commissioned to make exhaustive experiments at the cost of the Government in order to discover the best form of rifling.

This gentleman had devoted a great deal of time and skill to the design and manufacture of cannon and had adopted the polygonal bore as giving the best results and decided to use this type of rifling for his small arms. The advantage of the elongated bullet had long been demonstrated but in attempting to use it in connection with polygonal bore considerable trouble was experienced from the ball "capsizing" or "turning over." He became convinced that this action was due to the slow spin and eventually after testing every graduation from one turn in seventy-eight inches to one turn in five inches found that the necessary rotation to impart the required steadiness to the ball and cause it to maintain a flight parallel to its axis was best obtained at a pitch of one turn in twenty inches.

On tests before the Minister of War and many distinguished officers the Whitworth rifle of .45 caliber beat the Enfield rifles of Government factories by three to one. The mean deviation at five hundred yards was four and one-half inches while the record of any rifle previously tried was twenty-seven inches.

The rifle was never adopted into the Government service but forty of them were made for the competitive shoot of 1859 for the Queen's prize at the meeting of the National Rifle Association. Plate XXIII also shows an enlarged view of the bore of this arm and the machine-made bullet used with it.

While the original Whitworth bullet was hexagonal to fit the rifle bore, those used by the Confederates were for the most part cylindrical.

The late Walter M. Cline, who made a study of ammunition used in the opposing armies in the Atlanta campaign, said he never found any hexagonal bullets from the Whitworth on the battlefields, but he found many Whitworth cylindrical bullets. He said the Confederates used this bullet with a hollow base as a wood to lengthen the missile.

Twenty or thirty of these Whitworth rifles were run through the blockade to the Confederacy in 1862. They were divided between the army in Virginia and that in the West. The guns were issued to men specially selected because of the marksmanship.

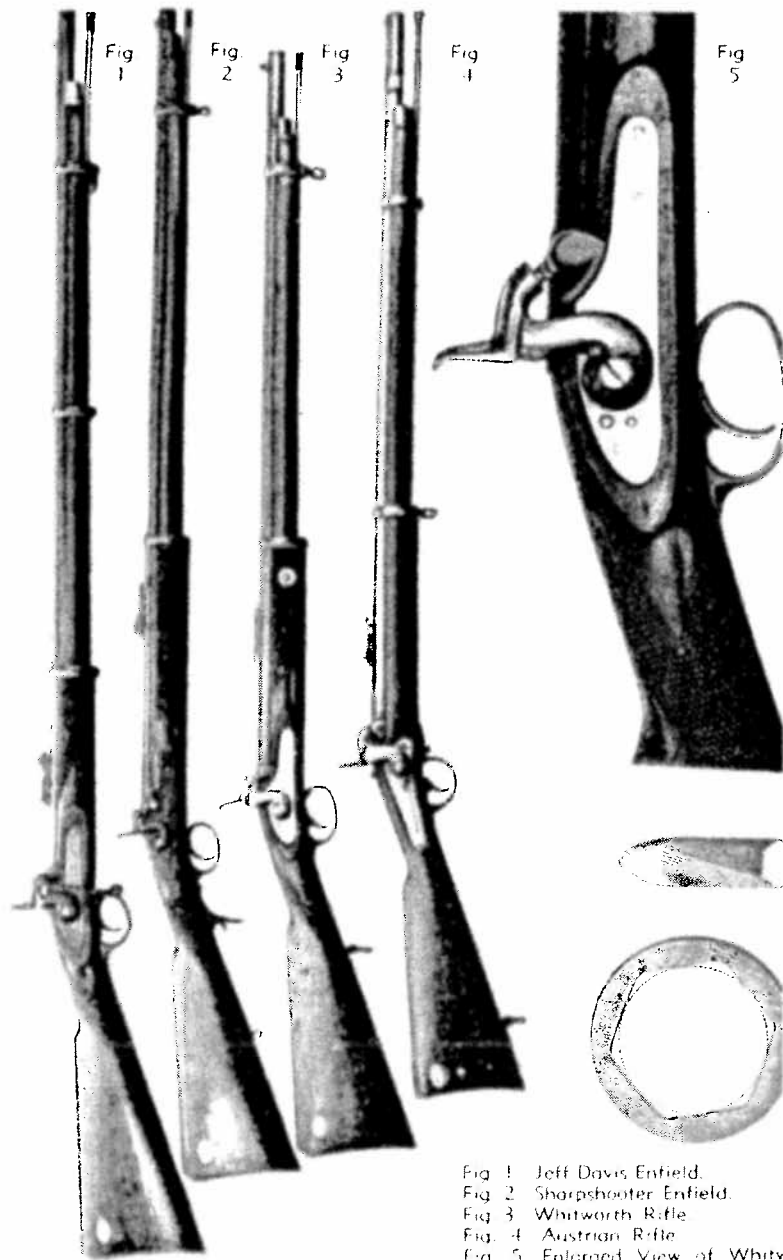
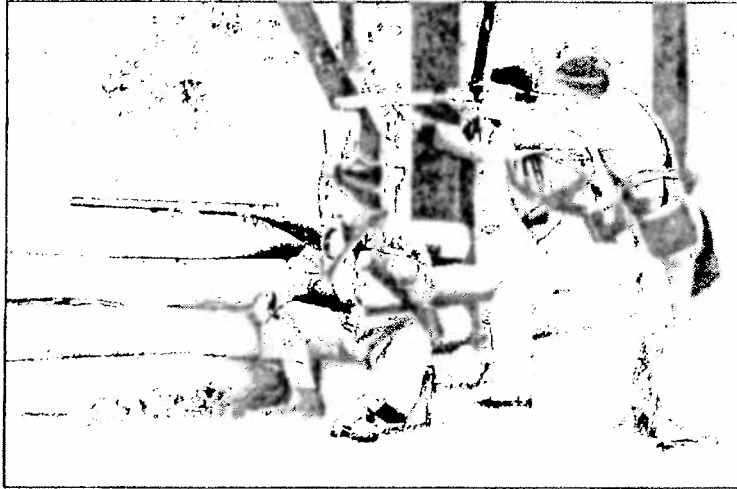


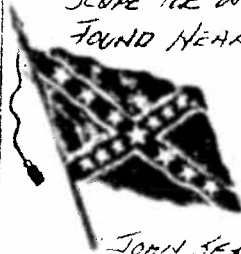
Fig. 1 Jeff Davis Enfield.
 Fig. 2 Sharpshooter Enfield.
 Fig. 3 Whitworth Rifle.
 Fig. 4 Austrian Rifle.
 Fig. 5 Enlarged View of White
 Lock, Bore and Bullet.



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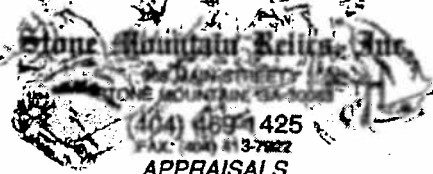
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JS