

Military History of Maxim Pom Pom Gun Number 2024

U. S. Navy 1pdr. Automatic Cannon

Hiram Maxim originally designed the Pom-Pom in the late 1880s as an enlarged version of the Maxim machine gun. Its longer range necessitated exploding projectiles to judge range, which in turn dictated a shell weight of at least 400 grams (0.88 lb), as that was the lightest exploding shell allowed under the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 and reaffirmed in the Hague Convention of 1899.^[7] This weight restriction, by experiment, led to the bore diameter of 37mm or 1.457", which was found to be the smallest bore that could accurately deliver a projectile weight of one pound to the desired range of 4500 yards.

Early versions were sold under the Maxim-Nordenfelt label, whereas versions in British service (i.e. from 1900) were labelled Vickers, Sons and Maxim (VSM) as Vickers had bought out Maxim-Nordenfelt in 1897. They are all effectively the same gun.

Maxim's 1pdr. Automatic Cannon was the very first of its type.

This gun was manufactured in 1889 as part of a thirty gun initial production run. The serial numbering of this class of Maxim gun started at #2001.

Naval interest in this gun was driven by the need to defend heavy armored vessels from high speed attack by torpedo boats. The first sale of gun #2024, with 5 others, was made to the Minister of Marine, St Petersburg, Russia, in March of 1895. All six guns were rejected because of defects and were returned to the factory and rebuilt. The top plate on the cover of the gun #2024 is marked with the issue /rebuild date, 1895.

The company was reorganized again in 1897 and did business as Vickers, Sons and Maxim. Thus, there are Vickers, Sons & Maxim inspection stamps present on gun 2024.

It is clear that gun #2024 was sold, used, factory rebuilt and remarked with various improvements and parts replacements before purchase by the U. S. Navy in the first days of the Spanish American War.

The gun was included in the first group of sixteen guns that the Navy purchased in March of 1898. All of this first purchase of Maxim guns had been manufactured in 1889 and only four had been previously unsold.

1 pdr. Maxim Automatic, #2024, Navy registry number 5, along with gun #2026 registry #6, were placed on the Manning, a U. S. Revenue Cutter, in April of 1898, at Norfolk, U. S. Naval Yard, according to the Records of the U. S. Bureau of Ordnance.

The Manning was taken into U. S. Naval service and participated in the bombardment of Spanish positions off Cabanas, Cuba on May 12th 1898.

Eventually, Maxim 1 Pdr. Automatic Guns of this type were officially declared obsolete in the years 1911/1912 and were removed from other ships and possibly from the Manning in this period.

Included are copies from; RG 74 Records of the Bureau of Ordnance; Registry of Mounts for Secondary Battery, 1888-1913. Pgs 116 and 118- E131

RG 74 Records of the Bureau of Ordnance; Record of Armament of Naval Vessels, 1841-1903.

7-pdr. Mounts and Shields

REGISTER No.	MADE	WEIGHT, LBS.	Foundry	MANUFACTURED			DISPOSITION	
				Date	Type	Yard	Vessel	
2003	I	97	England	W.S.	1898 Maxim	Wright & Co. N.Y.		
2008	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2018	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2021	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2024	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2026	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2001	"	"	"	"	No shield received	"		
2015	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2016	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2020	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2007	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2017	"	"	"	"	"	"		
2002	"	"	"	"	Non receipt	"		

Transferred to order

Wright & Co. N.Y.

LHM

1 - Peter R. F. (87 million) Mounts

all entries in this book #2 p. 229

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

U.S.

France

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

II

2614 1

1898 Hitchcock

1896

CIP
U.S.

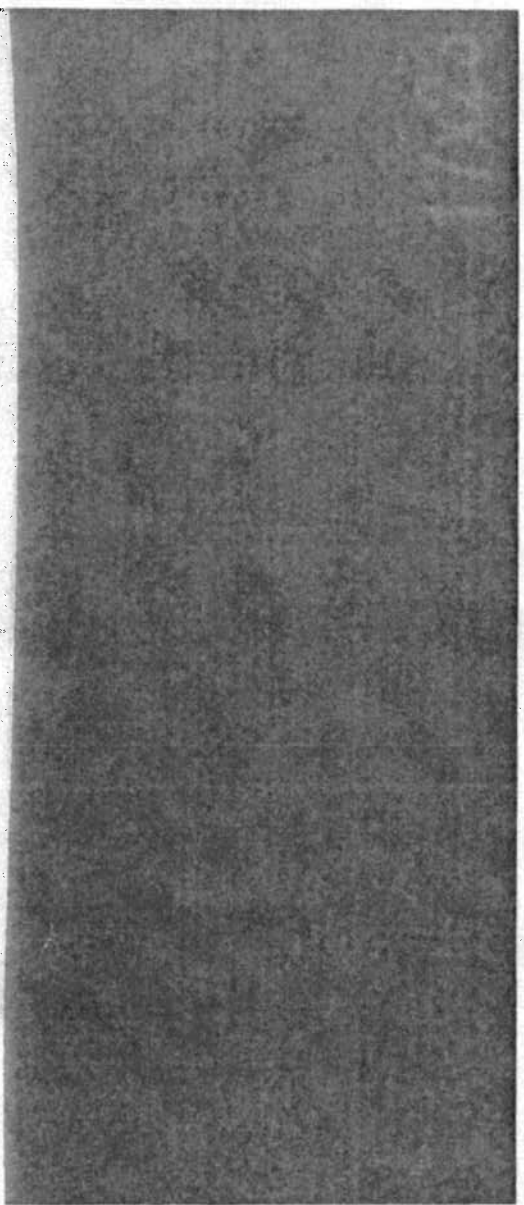
Paris

Paris

2613 2

2614 3

2614 4



1- pedr. Pedestals, Light, short

REGISTER NO.	MARK.	WEIGHT, LBS.	Country	MANUFACTURED.		DISPOSITION.		
				Date	By--	Yard.	Vessel.	
2003	I	220	England	W.S.	1898	Mapim	4. 1898	W. S. 1898
2008	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2018	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2021	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2024	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2026	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2007	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2015	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2016	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2022	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2007	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2017	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2002	"	224	"	"	"	"	"	"

Shipped to ...

U. S. S. Manning

Displacement, _____ tons; Draft, _____; Speed, _____ knots.

Coal capacity, _____ tons. Complement: _____

Officers, _____

Crew, _____

Marines, _____

Cost, _____

Commissioned, _____

MAIN BATTERY.

31 A in P. F. guns ¹² 45, 45
mortars ¹² 45, 45

	MOUNTED	LANDED
	Worfolk Apr. 1898	Genes ¹² 45, 45 of Boston Navy
	" " "	Mt ¹² 45, 45 " "
		Gen ¹² 45 mt 45-72 of 1898

TYPE *Suicide Cutter*

Date of Act. : Where built,

Small Arms: Torpedo tubes, kind and No.

Rifles, Torpedoes, kind and No.

Revolvers,

SECONDARY BATTERY.

MOUNTED.

LANDED.

2. 6-pdr. D. S. #180, 181

Shells - 209 - 211

" mounts 396, 397

stands, 183, 246

2 - 1-pdr Maxim automatic #5, 6

" mounts 5, 6,

stands, 5, 6,

Norfolk April, 1898



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

AUG 28 1995

E:CE:F:TE:EMO
3311.4

s
d
4

This refers to your letter of July 25, 1995, in which you ask about a 37mm Maxim Nordenfeldt Model 1895, automatic cannon. You indicate that the cannon bears the manufacturing date 1898.

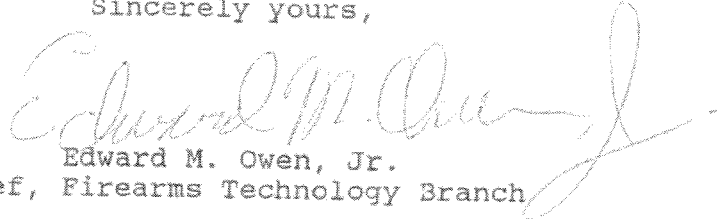
Title 26 U.S.C., Chapter 53, Section 5845(g) defines the term antique firearm as any firearm not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire ignition with fixed ammunition and manufactured in or before 1898 (including any matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system or replica thereof, whether actually manufactured before or after the year 1898) and also any firearm using fixed ammunition manufactured in or before 1898, for which ammunition is no longer manufactured in the United States and is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

Based on the information you provided and our research, the Maxim Nordenfeldt Model 1895, 37mm automatic cannon, bearing the manufacturing date 1898, serial number 2924, is an antique firearm as defined above. Additionally, the cannon is also an antique firearm as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C., Chapter 44, Section 921(a)(16).

The above determination merely classifies this weapon under the provisions of Federal law. It is suggested that you contact your local authorities to determine if the weapon may be subject to any State or municipal ordinances.

We trust that the foregoing has been responsive to your inquiry. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward M. Owen, Jr.", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and extends to the right, ending in a long horizontal stroke.

Edward M. Owen, Jr.
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch