

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 1917 BRAZILIAN CONTRACT

After **World War I**, Smith & Wesson continued manufacturing the **Hand Ejector Model 1917** revolver, with checkered grips and bright bluing, for the civilian market until 1948. Most of the post-War commercial revolvers were assembled with new, not surplus parts. In addition to the U.S. military and commercial sales of the M1917 revolvers, a number were sold to Brazil.

During 1936, Brazil began to modernize the weapons being fielded by their Armed Forces.

One of the goals of the modernization program was to adopt a standard caliber: the **.45 ACP** cartridge was chosen.

First-contract 1937 revolvers generally have post-WWI commercial production features: checkered S&W medallion grips, "SMITH & WESSON" on the right side of the barrel and a square-shaped, rear sight notch.

TWO BRAZILIAN CONTRACTS

There were two separate contracts for the Mod. 1917/1937 revolvers.

The first Brazilian contract was for 25,000 weapons, shipped during 1938.

Assigned serial numbers were from 181983 to 207043.

Generally, most of the revolvers in the first contract were much like the post-War production, commercial Model 1917.

Features of those guns were flat-top frames with a square-shaped, rear sight notch, checkered grips with the S&W silver medallion, commercial blue finish and the S&W trademark on the left side of the frame.

A second Brazilian contract group of 12,000 revolvers was amassed in 1946, with two serial number ranges: from 166000 to 175150 and 207196 to 209878.

Note that some of the serial numbers are lower than the revolvers made in the first Brazilian contract; this is because most of them were assembled from surplus U.S. military parts made during World War I.

VARIANCES BETWEEN MODELO 1937 AND MOD. 1917

The Brazilian nomenclature for the revolvers was the "**Modelo 1937**"

The Brazilian contract revolvers differed slightly from the U.S. military Model 1917 guns. One of the most obvious differences was the addition of the **Brazilian Crest** and 1937 date on the right side of the frame, along with "MADE IN THE U.S.A." On the left side, the Smith & Wesson trademark was added.

The MADE IN THE U.S.A. and S&W trademark were not marked on U.S. military M1917 revolvers.

The triggers on U.S. military M1917 were smooth; the triggers on the Brazilian guns were serrated.

Two styles of wooden grips were used on Brazilian guns: U.S. surplus smooth grips and checkered grips with the S&W medallion. The left side of the barrel was roll-marked: "S&W D.A. .45" and the top of the barrel was marked: "SMITH & WESSON SPRINGFIELD MASS U.S.A. PATENTED DEC. 17, 1901 FEB. 6, 1906, SEP. 14 1909."

The first Brazilian contract revolvers with post-War commercial barrels were marked: "SMITH & WESSON" on the right side.

The Brazilian seal on the right side of the revolvers is marked: "ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRAZIL 15 Novembro de 1899."

The 1937 date is when the revolvers were adopted.