

REMINGTON ARMS

The following four talks were given at the St. Louis, Mo. meeting of the Association, April 7, 1961. We regret that the manuscript, pictures and drawings used in the Karl Moldenhauer talk did not arrive in time for publication. It was necessary to work from the recorded tape.



L to R back row.. William E. Florence, William E. Gerber and Harmon C. Leonard. Front.. Karl Moldenhauer

WILLIAM E. GERBER "REMINGTON NAVY REVOLVERS"

Few collectors have the opportunity to gather together and study an entire group of variations of one model firearm. Oftentimes they have observed them all, one by one, but never together. Since variations are sometimes subtle, the collector might overlook important and interesting differences and therefore pass up the opportunity to add a valuable and interesting firearm to his collection. The writer has made an intensive study of Remington Navies and will attempt to add to the reader's interest and knowledge of this group. It must be realized that this presentation is not necessarily all inclusive, for almost invariably there are exceptions to be found.

When I realized that there are seven different navies my interest in the study was given tremendous impetus. The classification of these variations is difficult, particularly when comparisons are to be made of them. Since most collectors have accepted the terminology,

BEALS 1861 and NEW MODEL, I will gear my comments to this. If one enumerates all the differences in these arms, it is amazing that they still appear so very similar. There is not one component of a New Model that is completely alike the corresponding one on the Beals. This is also true of some late 1861 models compared to the Beals.

First, let's examine the Beals. In this series lies one of the great rarities of the Remington line. This variation of the Beal's model can be distinguished from the more common specimen by the following:

1. Single wing arbor pin-the one wing protrudes from the right side of the frame looking from breech to muzzle.
2. Protruding from the forward face of the pin is a small round rod (removable) which fits into a machined slot in the upper rear surface of the rammer lever. This slot may be observed in photograph #1. No one knows the purpose of the rod but it has been speculated that it is a cap pick.

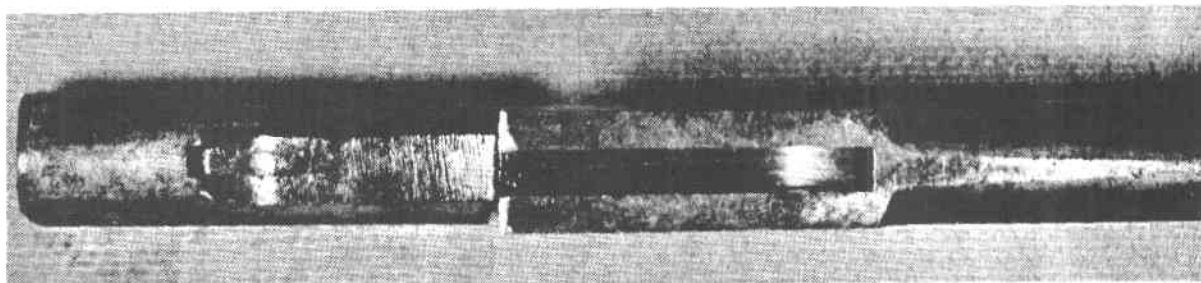
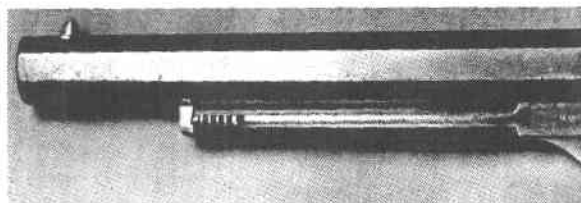


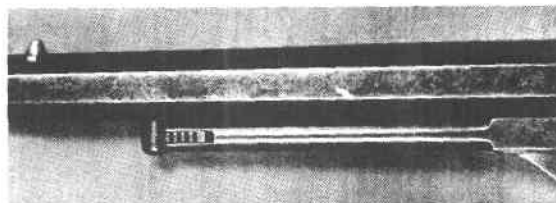
Photo #1 showing machined slot to accommodate rod. Note flat face of end of rammer.

3. The lever latch lug has a flat face and is secured to the barrel by a dovetail slot in the barrel. (See photo #2). It should be noticed that the forward face of the lever is flat to accommodate the flat design of the latch lug. If a lever replacement has been made from a later model it can quickly be determined, for the later production model lever has a concave face.

To have the opportunity to purchase one of these specimens is extraordinary. Of the few pieces examined most were in terrible condition. Some will be found with the grooved lever but a double wing pin without the rod. This could be attributed to cannibalization or actual factory production. I know of at least four specimens which have the double wing pin and the grooved lever and all are fine unaltered pieces.



EARLY BEALS



LATE BEALS

Although I have observed a very limited number of these variations it might be interesting to note a few serial numbers listed below:

SPECIMENS WITH GROOVED LEVER
AND SINGLE WING PIN WITH ROD

#5, #30, #74, #112

SPECIMENS WITH DOUBLE WING PIN
HAVING GROOVED LEVER BUT NO ROD

#123, #124, #189, #294, #313

The writer has owned #431 which conforms to all the later production models, and believes that there were certainly no more than that number (431) of the rare early variation and probably many less.

The standard production Beals differs from the early variations in that:

1. It has a double wing arbor pin with no rod, therefore no milled slot in the lever.
2. The lever latch lug is round and secured to the bottom barrel flat by screwing it in. (See photo #2)
3. The latch lever catch is slightly shorter. (See photo #2)
4. The forward face of the lever is concave.

In addition to the above the Beals is characterized by:

1. Cone front sight.
2. Barrel threads are concealed in the frame.
3. Rammer lever is smaller and weaker than the later production of the Navy.
4. High spur hammer with diamond shaped knurling on the spur.
5. Barrel length is 7 1/2".
6. Barrel marked: F. BEAL'S PATENT SEPT 14, 1858

MANUFACTURED BY REMINGTONS' ILION, N.Y.

7. Frame recessed for either single or double wing arbor pin.
8. No safety notches between nipple wells.
9. Nipples are of the "Paterson Type" with indentations 180 degrees apart to accommodate two tine nipple wrench.

Next the 1861 Model came into being. Whether Remington made any distinction in the models is not known. It is interesting to note that the writer has observed a late production Beals #15694 and has owned a pure 1861 model #14333 which varied from the ordinary 1861 only in that it had the standard Beals stamping on the barrel. Whether this would be proof that the Beals and the 1861s were separately numbered I do not know, but it is an indicator of that.

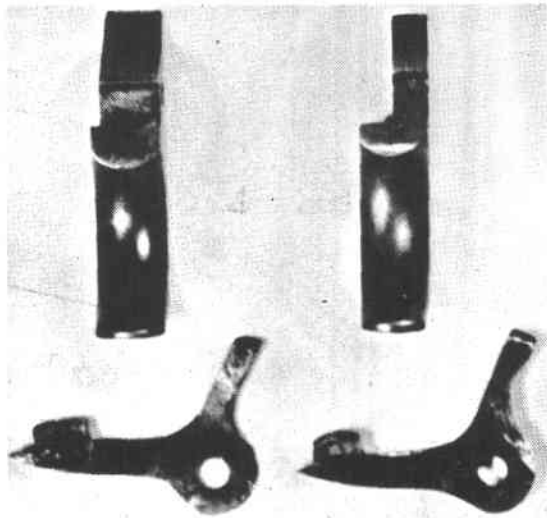


Photo #3, Left - Beals Right - 1861

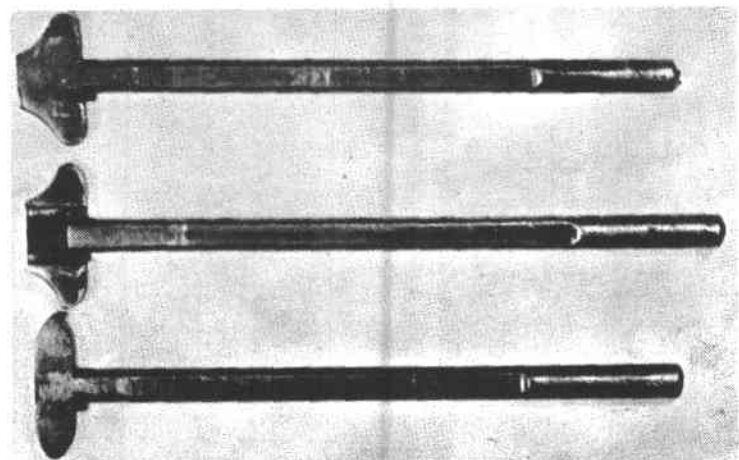


Photo #4, T to B New Model, 1861, late Beals

The 1861 series is characterized by:

1. Cone front sight.

2. High spur hammer identical to the Beals with the exception that the knurling is criss crossed rather than in a diamond shape. Obviously this would indicate an interchange of hammers if one had been made.
3. Cylinder has no safety notches.
4. Double wing arbor pin grooved to slide along the rammer lever. (See Photo #4)
5. Two tine cylinder bolt. (See Photo #3)
6. Arbor pin retaining spring housed between the bottom barrel flat and the forward
7. Frame not notched for arbor pin wings.
8. Barrel length 7 3/8".
9. Standard nipples having the raised lug 180 degrees apart.
10. Barrel marked PATENTED DEC. 17, 1861

MANUFACTURED BY REMINGTONS' LION, N.Y.

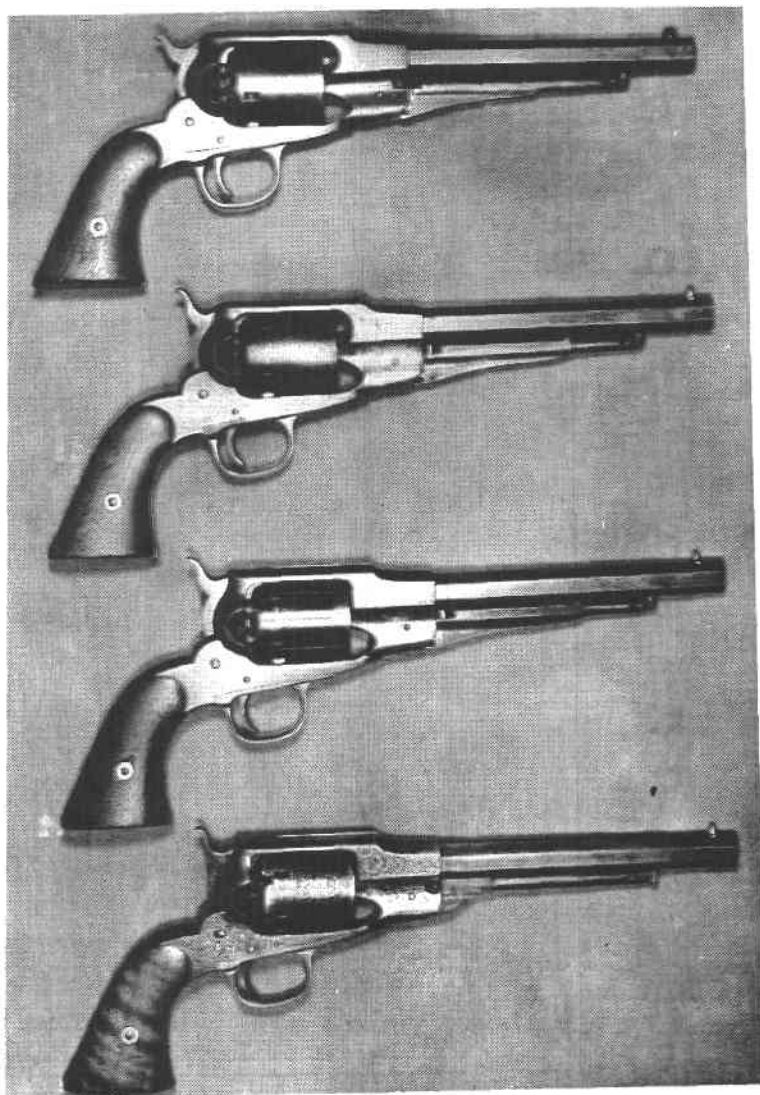


Photo #5 Top to Bottom . . . Late New Model,
Late 1861 Model, Early 1861 Model, Beals.

The late production of the 1861 incorporates one major feature in addition to those mentioned above. Somewhere between #16714 and #16999 the frame configuration is altered in two ways. The most obvious is the exposure of the barrel threads. This feature may be noted in Photo #5 showing the the group of four Navies. It should be pointed out that the early 1861 frame conceals the threads. The other change involves the shaping of the very aft portion of the top strapover the cylinder. It has a very definite bevel lacking on the early variation. This difference can be viewed in Photo #6. Actually change in the 1861 frame amounts to bringing into being the early New Model frame.

As the 1861 production reached nineteen to twenty thousand in the serial chronology the cylinders were produced with safety notches between the cylinder wells. This change could hardly justify making a third classification in this

series. It is interesting to note for it is one more step toward reaching the New Model series. Aside from the grooved lever and the companion arbor pin with it's retaining spring, there is very little difference between a late 1861 and the early New Model. Naturally the markings are different and it should be noted that once again the frame of the New Model is notched for the arbor wings.

The following is a list of the characteristics of the early New Model:

1. Solid rammer lever.
2. Double wing arbor pin.
3. Cone front sight.
4. Safety notched cylinder.
5. Barrel marked

PATENTED SEPT. 14, 1858

E. REMINGTON & SONS, ILION, NEW YORK

6. Low hammer spur.
7. Barrel length 7 3/8".

Between serial #25781 and #34241 three changes occur as listed below:

1. Barrel marking changed to

PATENTED SEPT. 14, 1858

E. REMINGTON & SONS, ILION NEW YORK U. S. A.

2. A pinch front sight is substituted for the German silver cone sight.

Finally Remington saw the need for producing a cartridge model. Therefore he began offering an "Improved Navy Revolver". A reproduction of an advertisement appearing in the Remington catalogue of 1878 along with a photo of a specimen of the revolver is shown in photos #7 and #8. This type of arms is commonly referred to by collectors as a conversion, but all specimens with this configuration are not necessarily converted. The only difference between a production model and a conversion is the additional serial number stamped on the underside of the barrel at the time of conversion and in a number of instances the production models have been put out with a small amount of crude engraving on the frame only. These production models in extremely fine condition are quite scarce.

It would be extremely helpful if the readers would inspect the Remington Navies in their collections and notify the writer of the serial numbers and characteristics thereof. To date the sampling has been insufficient to determine how the different variations or models were serial

Photo #6

Top... Late 1861 NM type frame

Bot... Early 1861 Beals type frame

numbered. It appears that the Beals were numbered separately due to the previously mentioned overlap of the Beals and the 1861. It should be remembered that the lowest numbered on the 1861 found by the writer is #14333. If they were separately serialized where did the other #14332 revolvers of the 1861 Model go? It is conceivable that Remington did start the Beals with #1 serial number and continue through the New Model. To confuse the issue just a little more. Bill Florence has a New Model serial #12 in his collection and it is a fine one. Aside from this very low number the writer has found no New Model number lower than #22974.




REMINGTON'S IMPROVED NAVY REVOLVER

REMINGTON'S IMPROVED NAVY REVOLVER.
 Six Shots. Full length, 13½ in.

7½ in Barrel.
 Weight. 2½ lbs.

Loaded and shells
 thrown out
 without removing
 Cylinder.

PRICE.		
Blued .	\$15.00	
Nickel plated frame	16.00	
Full nickel plated	16.50	
EXTRA FOR		
Ivory stocks	6.00	
Pearl " "	17.50	
Engraving	5.00	

Use this Cartridge.
 38-100 Calibre.
PRICE.
 \$1.80 per 100
 \$18.00 " 1,000

ADVERTISEMENT OF REMINGTON'S IMPROVED NAVY REVOLVER
 AS SHOWN IN THEIR 1878 CATALOGUE

KARL MOLDENHAUER
 REMINGTON ARMIES

I've gone just a little bit farther than Bill has on this particula thing; I've stuck my neck out, I have put down serial numbers. We have designatd this particular frame - I don't know if you know what this is, but this is a closed thread frame that Bill explained before, we have designated that as a Beals type frame.

One thing did not mention as far as the frame is concerned, is the fact that the grip strap or grip frame on the earlier models is longer. Now this carries through on both the Army and the Navy. As far as the Army is concerned, assuming that they started with the serial

Number 1, the lowest serial number that is recorded in the Beals Army is the serial Number 40. The highest is the one in Bill Florence's collection, 1776. So we are assuming that they manufactured 2,000. You might say we assume in any of this work connected with Remington as we have contacted Remington time and time again and we can't come up with anything specific because of the fact that there are no records on any of this stuff.

Now, going back to the loading lever, I believe that Bill has pointed that out to you that the same thing is true in the Army as it is in the Navy. The latch in the case of the Army is round in the Beals Army which is the first production. Incidentally, according to features that you find, the assumption is that they had produced approximately 15,000 Beals Navies by the time that they started producing the so-called Beals Armies. The latter which Bill and I discussed at lunch, I think my numbers are 1,000 apart, between my martially marked Beals and my Martially marked 1861. Yet, in the interim, we find a '61 with a lower number than my so called Beals Navy.

I'm speaking of the Navies right now, but this carries right on through - I mean I'm trying to justify the 15,000 figure. Now, as we explained before, the grip frame is longer in one than it is in the other one. Your Beals Army is marked with a specific 1858 patent date of September 14. We call that Number 1. Then you will find a group of guns numbered from somewhere in the neighborhood of 11,000 - I have a recorded 11,114, I believe it is in the neighborhood of 14,000, I don't recall the numbers off-hand, so I would say that you will find that '61 marking between the serial numbers of 2,000 and 15,000, these are generalized. In between that time, I have gotten this down to 64 numbers, the Beals frame gave way to the new model frame with the exposed threads.

Now I had a metallurgist to discuss the reason why this is - certainly it is not, as far as manufacturing is concerned, very smart to expose threads because of the fact that they could become rusted and couldn't be pulled out, and he explained this, that if you will look at some of the Beals Armies, and if you will look at some of the Third Models, you will find flaws right in through here - and he pointed out that it is a case of draft as far as the casting is concerned and the forging creating that, and by creating a gate you eliminate that because of the fact that you are pouring metal to a different degree into here.

Let's start with the sight. The serial number range on cone front sights run from 1 to 44,000. 44,000 is a complete new model, marked New Model, yet it has a cone front sight. As a matter of fact, Sam Smith has it, it is 43,900 and something. The exact place in the serial number range where it differs from the Beals frame to the New Model frames, I would say is at 7,061. Of course, there are slight variations in between but that is approximately where it comes in.

Now, your second transition would have the standard New Model marking on it, but is not marked new model. They produced approximately 5,000 of those. Then, the New Model stamping came into being but was put on individually in a single stamp. I think we have eight of those and they are in the serial number range of 22,000 - 23,000 - they all fall in that particular category. After 23,000 they are generally with New Model signings. As you all know the New Model signings to be, I mean most of you have seen them, the '58 Patent Date with the three line signing.

In conjunction with the internal mechanism it is interesting to note that the Beals Army had the single tine cylinder bolt, but immediately upon production of the '61 model the single tine bolt gave way to the double bolt. On my table is a reasonably good Beals Army which has a frozen cylinder bolt in it because of the fact that tine is broken off and it must have been a very bad feature of the arm and a lot of them must have broken and as a result they went to a double tine which would give them added protection that if one broke the other would hold, so that's all I have to add.