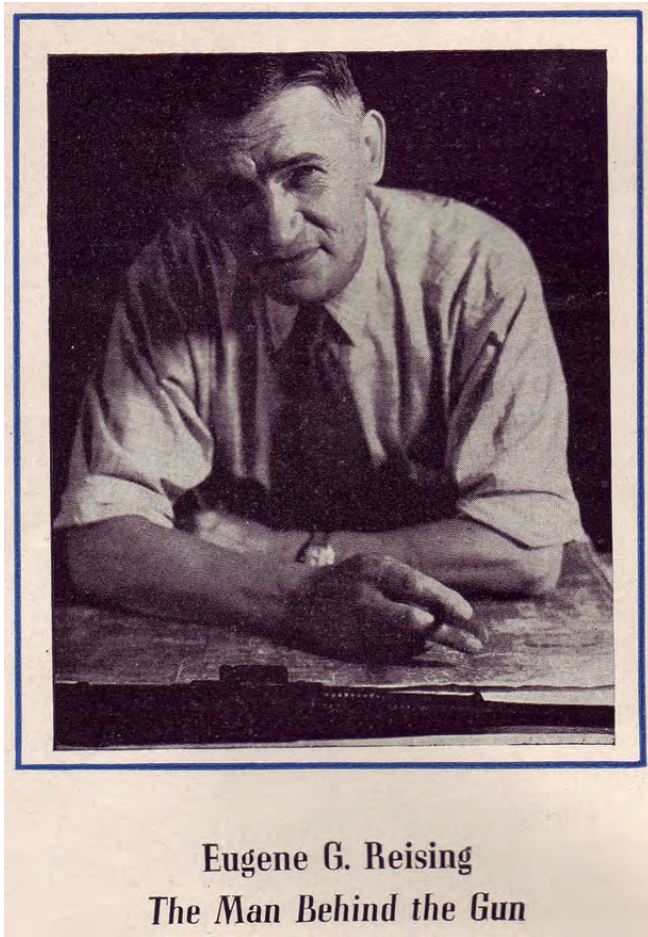




EUGENE REISING'S FIREARM DESIGNS

By David R. Albert



ing made to the final M1911 design are unknown, however it is quite likely that he helped design the exposed hammer mechanism, which was one of the later changes to the pistol. A likeness of the hammer soon appeared on his own .22 pistol design. In March, 1910, Mr. Reising toured three U.S. Army facilities for Colt in support of their M1911 Pistol adoption efforts. At Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and Ft. Riley, Kansas⁹, Eugene Reising demonstrated several of the earliest manufactured (single digit) Colt M1909 Pistols (predecessor to the M1911) prior to the ultimate military adoption of the final M1911 design.¹⁰ He and another individual personally delivered serial numbers 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 20 for testing at the three facilities.¹¹ Incidentally, Reising interacted with John T. Thompson, later namesake of the Thompson Submachine Gun, during his tenure at Colt, while promoting the new pistol design with the U.S. Army. Colt and Savage were the finalists in the M1911 design competition. During the final new pistol adoption tests, Colt chose Eugene Reising to fire their pistols, while Charles Nelson of Savage fired for the competition.¹² It is also known that Mr. Reising, as a Colt employee, demonstrated a 9.8mm Colt M1910 pistol in Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia in 1911.¹³ Eugene Reising had impressive pistol shooting abilities.

Eugene Reising was fired by Colt in 1913, because he used a Luger in competition at Camp Perry. His firearm design career continued, when in 1918, Mr. Reising submitted a machine gun design for patent, assigned to The Hartford Machine Gun Company, but it did not become a successful enterprise (Figure 1). No known examples of this machine gun design remain today.

Ferdinand¹ Eugene G. "Gus" Reising was born on November 26, 1884 in Port Jervis, New York², and was of Swedish descent.³ He died on February 21, 1967, at the age of 82 in Worcester, Massachusetts.⁴ Few firearm designers experienced longevity in their field matching Eugene Reising's career. He worked as a firearms designer for over 50 years, and submitted his last patent a few days after his 80th birthday.⁵ He is credited with more than 90 firearm related patents in his lifetime, and influenced other firearm designers, including Gordon Ingram in his design of the MAC-10 Submachine Gun.⁶ He attended Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, but did not graduate. He married Francine (Fanny) Rose Deveraux on January 17, 1911, and remained married to her until she passed away in 1947. He remarried in 1950, after he met his new wife at work at H&R in Worcester, Mass.

Early in his career, Eugene Reising worked for Colt as an assembler,⁷ and eventually gained sufficient training and trust to become involved with firearm design. His employment with Colt lasted from at least 1909 to 1913, and perhaps began earlier⁸. During his tenure at Colt, he ended up contributing to the final design changes of the M1911 Pistol under the tutelage of legendary firearms designer John Browning. The exact contributions that Eugene Reising

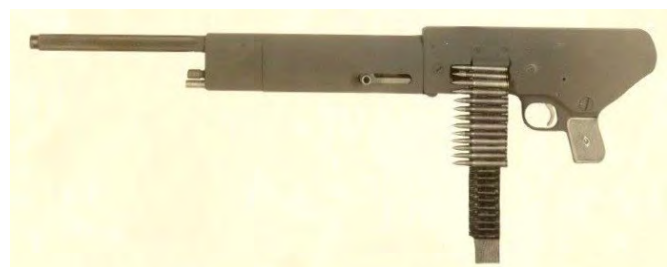


Figure 1. Two photos of the 1918 Hartford Machine Gun Company belt fed machine gun designed by Eugene Reising.



Figure 2. Eugene Reising served in the Connecticut National Guard¹⁵, and also shot on their rifle team, as well as the Connecticut Civilian Rifle Team. Here he is as a young man with some of his many shooting medals on his Guard dress uniform.

In 1919, Mr. Reising started a firearms business bearing his name, which focused on further development of a .22 pistol that he designed and submitted for patent in 1914. It eventually became a competitor to the Colt Woodsman pistol manufactured by his former employer. The Reising .22 Pistol had unique lines, featuring a pivoting barrel for single shot use and ease of cleaning, and shared some aesthetic and mechanical similarities to the M1911. There were three iterations of Reising's firearms manufacturing business whose development and operational histories spanned from 1919 to late 1925, including an attempted, but unsuccessful restart in the late 1920's.

Eugene Reising was an avid shooter and achieved "Distinguished Pistol Shot" status in 1923.¹⁴ This is no small feat. As of 1942, he had a "collection of some 150 medals, cups, and other trophies won in pistol and rifle tournaments, national and international (Figure 2). Among these is the U.S. Government Distinguished Medal for Marksmanship, awarded to the shooter who wins the National Competition for any three years." Mr. Reising's .22 pistol design was certainly driven by his own shooting abilities and experiences.

From 1919 to late 1925, Eugene Reising operated two different companies producing his .22 Pistol design (Figure 3). The first company, The Reising Arms Company, was based in Hartford, Connecticut, and manufactured the pistols directly. The company became incorporated on December 10, 1919 with \$60,000 worth of capital stock.¹⁶ A business office was located at 149 Broadway in New York City (Figure 4). Both the names Reising Arms Company, Inc., and Reising Arms Corporation were used by the company in correspondence and sales literature.¹⁷ "Reising Arms Co." was stamped on the pistols. Approximately 2,500 pistols were manufactured by this company before it went bankrupt in 1923. The second company was named The Reising Manufacturing Corporation, established March 11, 1924¹⁸, whose business offices were located at 61 Broadway in New York City. They outsourced manufacturing of the pistols to two different companies. The first 400 were made by the New Haven Arms Company, in New Ha-



Figure 3. Eugene Reising made his first major mark on the firearms industry with his .22 pistol design, manufactured by companies bearing his name from 1919 to 1925.

THE REISING MANUFACTURING CORPORATION HAS ACQUIRED THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO MANUFACTURE AND SELL THE REISING 22 AUTOMATIC PISTOL ALSO ALL THE TOOLS AND FACTORY EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SAME.

THE FACTORY OF THE OLD COMPANY AT HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT WAS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE GROWING BUSINESS SO THAT THE PISTOL WILL NOW BE MANUFACTURED IN A NEW PLANT AT CHICOPEE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE ALSO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MR. REISING'S 22 AUTOMATIC RIFLE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY UNDERTAKEN.

WE EXPECT TO BE READY TO MAKE SHIPMENT OF THE REISING 22 AUTOMATIC PISTOL ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1923.

ALL ORDERS SENT TO THE OLD COMPANY WILL BE EXECUTED BY US.

ALL ORDERS AND INQUIRIES WILL HAVE OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

TEMPORARY OFFICE

**ADDRESS: THE REISING MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
ROOM 2927, 61 BROADWAY, NEW YORK**

**NEW YORK,
AUGUST 15, 1923**

TELEPHONE BOWLING GREEN 6928

Figure 4. This Reising Manufacturing Corporation announcement, dated August 15, 1923 is a veiled indication that the original Reising Arms Company went bankrupt. The dates are optimistic when compared to incorporation records, but it provides insight into Reising manufacturing sub-contracting / outsourcing. It also mentions a .22 rifle that was likely never produced.

ven, Conn.¹⁹, and the remaining ~1,200 guns were made by the Page-Lewis Arms Company, of Chicopee Falls, Mass.²⁰, up until late 1925. This is when Eugene Reising became incarcerated for violation of the Sullivan Act, as detailed later in this manuscript. While Mr. Reising served his time, his namesake company didn't survive, and probably ceased operation sometime in early 1926. There were two main reasons that the company perished; the first involved Gene Reising's 15-month prison stay, and the other involved the death of Mr. Page of the Page-Lewis Arms Company in 1926, which drove the demise of the company that manufactured the Reising pistol.²¹ Gene Reising made efforts to revive his pistol manufacturing firm under another new name, The Reising Arms Company in Waterbury, CT during the late 1920's, after his release from prison, but it never became viable.

In 1915, Colt designers introduced a .22 caliber semi-automatic target pistol, while at the same time, Eugene Reising worked on his own .22 pistol, even while World War I progressed in Europe. The U.S. maintained neutrality during the war in 1915, and American firearm companies remained able to focus mostly on production of non-military arms, with some exceptions, such as Remington, which had a large military production effort. At the time a semi-automatic .22 pistol seemed like a potentially profitable venture, and it certainly proved so for Colt with a longevity witnessed by few other firearms in what would become the Woodsman series of pistols, manufactured from 1915 to 1977 with the exception of a

brief hiatus during World War II. Eugene Reising's .22 pistol received its first patent on May 16, 1916.²² This patent date appears roll stamped on examples of Reising .22 pistols produced by both Reising companies.

The Reising .22 Pistol was innovative, with several positive selling points. It featured a magazine disconnect safety that did not allow the weapon to fire without a magazine inserted. This feature was specifically patented by Mr. Reising²³, and its theory is incorporated into many other firearm designs today. The pistol did not have a specific manual safety mechanism, but the exposed hammer could be half-cocked to act as a safety. This was accomplished by lowering the hammer very slowly on a loaded chamber, and then pulling the hammer back to the half cock position. It was not the most desirable form of a safety, but specific, manual safeties were not deemed particularly necessary during the time period. The Reising .22 Pistol boasted a magazine capacity of 12 shots, which was higher than any other .22 automatic pistol of the time. The pistol appeared similar to the M1911, with the exception of the pivoting barrel design, which allowed the barrel to swing downwards for easier cleaning and visual bore examination, and also enabled single shot loading. Several prototypes of the pistol have been identified (Figure 5). The company advertised its ease of disassembly with the catchphrase, "Three pieces in three seconds without tools." It featured blowback operation and had sleek features. The pistol is ergonomic, and feels really good in hand. Even



Figure 5. Prototype Reising .22 Pistols A) Original 1st prototype, patent filed in 1915, approved 5/16/16. Patent was for magazine disconnect, first firearm to incorporate this feature. Was to be marketed under Dalton Arms Corp., but none produced B) 2nd prototype, patent filed in 1919, approved 10/25/21. Taking form of production pistol. An early pistol was tested by Springfield Armory in 1920. C) EXP-1 November 1928 prototype. Patent filed in 1928, approved 1/3/32. Post commercial manufacturing prototype. D) EXP-3 Another post commercial manufacturing prototype. Heavy barrel target model, adjustable rear sight, slide stays open after last round. E) Reising Arms Company pistol, early Hartford, Conn. production gun. Wide front sight blade, push button barrel lock, ability to load single shots, tip up barrel, 12 round magazine. F) Later Hartford, Conn. production gun. Finer sight blade, toggle type barrel lock, serial number relocated to front grip strap. G) Reising Manufacturing Corp, New York marked pistol. Finer sight blade toggle type barrel lock, serial number relocated to front grip strap. H) Reising Manufacturing Corp. Deluxe Model. Pearl or Ivory grips, frame, slide, and barrel engraved, came in deluxe case with Reising cleaning rod.

today, with almost 100 years of technology since, the trigger feels quite light and crisp, thoughtfully designed by someone who cared about precision target shooting.

The ability to load single shots and the tip up barrel design of his new pistol were likely an influence of Mr. Reising's lifelong

target shooting hobby. During his formative marksmanship years, single shot, tip up pistols were the standard competition models available.

Conventional wisdom is that Reising Arms Company/Corporation (Hartford, Connecticut) production pistol serial numbers start-

ed at 1001, and ran to about number 3500. This has been stated in the Blue Book of Gun Values for a long time. However, the author has documented two lower serial numbered examples that appear consistent with production models. The lowest production serial number documented by the author as of this writing is 999, and the highest is 3490. The author has also reviewed serial number 1000, which, according to a previous owner, is a prototype, but it appears the same as subsequent production models. The owner's assumption that serial number 1000 is a prototype is probably based on the statement about Reising .22 pistol serial number ranges in the Blue Book of Gun Values. In Charles W. Walker's 1978 Reising .22 pistol article in *Guns Illustrated*²⁴, he stated that serials began at 1000, and quoted several other serial numbers from his observations. Different conclusions about the start of the serial number range probably occurred through different observations and assumptions. So, whether production serial numbers began at 999, 1000, or 1001, or even earlier than these three numbers is the subject for potential debate and further research. All three low serial number examples remain in private collections, and have changed hands within the past few years. All three appear to be production models, based on no significant differences in characteristics with production models serial numbered 1001 or after, and the two earliest examples are serial numbered in a standard fashion, which should be perceived as the key determining factor, in the author's opinion. There were some small changes made to the aesthetics and minor function of the pistol early in its production, probably just improvements on the fly, but they were made after the aforementioned earliest known example pistols.

The Reising .22 Pistol faced fierce competition from the Colt Woodsman series of .22 Automatic Pistols in part due to a price difference; one could easily purchase a Colt for \$27, while a Reising was a dollar more, at \$28. Both firearms are featured adjacent to each other in the 1922 edition of the Bob Smith Sporting Goods Catalog from Boston, Massachusetts. List prices of the same period were \$32 for the Colt²⁵, and \$36 for the Reising. Other catalogs asked \$3 more for the Reising than the Colt.²⁶ To purchase a Reising, one had to place a slight premium on the design versus what eventually became a classic Colt pistol made by a long proven, well-known firearms manufacturer. Eugene Reising had a difficult time competing against his former employer.

Production Changes

The following feature changes have been observed on Reising .22 pistols sold through both of his companies.

- The Reising Arms Company - Early Production Models
- Patent date "May 16, 1916" roll marked on barrel
- Serial number located above and slightly forward of the trigger guard, left side of pistol (some time between 2817 and 2961, the serial number location change was made)
- Push button barrel release
- THE REISING ARMS CO. HARTFORD, CONN. U.S.A. marked in two lines on left side of slide (Figure 6)



Figure 6. The Reising Arms Company - early production model stamping on the side of the frame. Howard Brown Collection

Second production model – were marked with two patent dates type barrel lock, finer sight blade and serial number below trigger guard. Most common of the Hartford guns - approx. 2,500 produced.

Last production models have "THE REISING MFG. CORP." markings and a "NEW YORK, N.Y. U.S.A." address on the side of the frame (Figure 7), even though they were manufactured in New Haven by the New Haven Arms Company (approx. 400) and later by Page Lewis Arms Company in Chicopee Falls, Mass. (last 2,000).



Figure 7. Stamping on the side of the frame for later production pistols.

In 1925, a "Deluxe" version of the Reising .22 pistol was offered by the Reising Manufacturing Corp. The Deluxe model featured fine engraving, checkered trigger and hammer, pearl grips, an extra magazine, deluxe cleaning rod, and a special leather covered, plush lined case. For these features, a premium of \$52 above the normal pistol price was paid, for a total of \$85. A very nice, gold colored pamphlet was produced to advertise this special Reising pistol edition (Figure 8).



Figure 8. The "Deluxe" Reising was a last minute attempt to market a high end, engraved and pearl handled version of the .22 pistol in a special case with accessories.

A special announcement of a new "Super" Reising Pistol, featuring a 10-inch barrel, and improved sights is evidenced in the author's paper collection, although this model has not been physically encountered. The announcement indicated the offering "Will be ready about September 1, 1925." It is likely that, based on the anticipated release date, and the likelihood that the date slipped, and the fact that Eugene Reising became incarcerated in October 1925, that the "Super" Reising .22 pistol plan was cancelled. Of incidental note is that the announcement lists the Reising Manufacturing Corp. address as 61 Broadway in New York, and also lists the "Works: Chicopee Falls, Mass." This is the only place that the offsite production is referenced in the author's paper collection. The Chicopee Falls location was where the outsourced manufac-

turing of the pistol occurred by the Page-Lewis Arms Company.

The Reising Manufacturing Corporation (New York) referred to Reising .22 Pistols manufactured at Hartford as “Original Reising Pistols,” and to the Reising .22 Pistols they produced as “New Improved Reising Pistols.” The new company would service original pistols as necessary for mutually agreed upon rates upon shipment or delivery of the pistol to them.

Overall, slightly over 3,600 Reising .22 pistols were manufactured under both company names. The New York pistols are just slightly less common, but no significant collector price variation between pistols produced by either company is observed at this time, except for very low serial number pistols, and of course, any Reising .22 in exceptional original condition. Most who own or purchase these pistols as of this writing are not aware of the existence of two different company entities, or the subcontractors that enabled their manufacture.

The Reising Manufacturing Company introduced several accessories for their pistol, including a cleaning kit with Reising branded solvent, holsters, as well as pocket and hunting knives and an axe.²⁷ These items are quite rare today, but do not necessarily attract much collector attention. The knives were made by Wade & Butcher in Sheffield, England, and had “REISING” etched on the blade. The solvent, cleaning kit and axe have not been physically witnessed by the author, who remains hopeful that examples which may still exist will be documented in the future.

For Eugene Reising, the 1920’s demonstrated a series of personal highs and lows. His firearms business manufactured and sold hundreds of pistols per year, and sustained itself for a time. It must have been satisfying for Mr. Reising from the perspective of being a firearms designer and manufacturing a product bearing his name. However, the Reising Arms Company business eventually fal-

tered, and proceeded into bankruptcy. The business subsequently reorganized as the Reising Manufacturing Corporation, and outsourced its manufacturing to another firm in New York City.

October 1925 was not a good month for Eugene Reising. He went from being an owner of a firearms manufacturing company, to a convicted felon within the matter of a week.

New York City was the first American city to enact restrictive firearm laws.²⁸ The Sullivan Act of 1911 regulated the possession and carrying of firearms, and resulted directly from organized crime’s political influence in an attempt by Irish and Jewish gangsters to keep Italian immigrants from having guns through the discretionary approval of permits by their controlled police entities. A 1917 addition to the Sullivan Act placed silencers under the same controls.²⁹ On October 20, 1925, Mr. Reising was arrested for felony possession of a silencer.³⁰ He subsequently pleaded guilty on October 27, 1925 to unlawfully possessing firearms in relation to a sale of silencers he made to some local gangsters, known as the “Cowboy” Tessler bandit gang.³¹

The 1925 silencer charge occurred when New York City cops set up a decoy to lure Mr. Reising into the city after an initial trap to apprehend him within their jurisdiction failed. New York Detective Sergeant Duggan went to Hartford, Connecticut to find Reising and lured him back to his jurisdiction through use of an untrue story about a prisoner who had confessed to giving Reising a stolen car of a particular make. Reising wanted to confront his accuser, and accompanied Sergeant Duggan back to New York City, where the bogus automobile issue was dropped, and the silencer issue subsequently revealed and pursued under Sullivan Act jurisdiction.³²

One of the silencers that Eugene Reising provided to the “Cowboy” Tessler gang ended up being used in the murder of Abraham



Figure 9. Eugene Reising’s desk at his home, circa 1920’s. On the left side of the desk is the Luger pistol he used in competition, which became the source of his firing at Colt. The trophy was awarded to Gene for winning an international competition in Romania in 1911 while on tour for Colt, demonstrating a 9.8mm caliber M1910 Pistol.

Pefke on July 2, 1925.³³ One was also used to fire 10 shots at a police officer.³⁴ A member of the gang named Peter Stroh apparently negotiated with Mr. Reising to acquire the pistols and silencers. The silencers Mr. Reising provided were Maxim branded, and probably acquired in person by Mr. Reising in his hometown of Hartford, Conn., where Maxim silencers were made. At the time, silencers were legally obtainable almost everywhere in the United States, in hardware stores or even through the mail. New York City was a very notable exception to their legality. One of the silencers was allegedly provided by Mr. Reising to the gang in trade for a stolen automobile. The revolver and silencer used in the Pefke killing were recovered after almost a full day of excavation from a chimney, inside which it had been dropped by Mr. Stroh, who confessed to all the details.³⁵ After the court considered the facts, and Mr. Reising admitted to providing the silencer, he was sent to "The Tombs" jail facility in New York City to await sentencing.³⁶

Eugene Reising spent the majority of his incarceration from October 1925 to February 1927 in the Welfare Island Correctional Institution.³⁷ Upon his release, he fell back into trouble with the authorities. Two months after his prison release, he was arrested by a U.S. Marshal, and taken to Vermont as a material witness in a violation of the Dyer Act, which covered interstate transportation of stolen automobiles.³⁸ Three months after his prison release, he became accused of aiding the same "Cowboy" Tessler bandit gang with whom he had worked previously with a new charge of fencing automobiles, including mutilating engine identification numbers. He was released on \$3,000 bond, and the exact details of the outcome of this incident are unknown, though it is known that he spent no further time behind bars.³⁹ The late 1920's was not a fertile time for firearm designer employment. His firearms manufacturing business ceased to exist while he served his prison term, and apparently Mr. Reising had trouble resisting criminal influences.

Between 1927 and 1938, Eugene Reising filed 6 firearm patent applications that were eventually approved and patented. Two of the patents assigned one-quarter rights to Alva C. Washburne of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, who was an insurance actuary, and longtime friend and business associate of Mr. Reising. Mr. Washburne helped finance Reising's ventures, and his name first appears associated with Mr. Reising in 1915, as Treasurer of the Dalton Arms Company, which was the first company formed to market Eugene Reising's .22 pistol design. Mr. Washburne is also noted by Captain James L. Hatcher of the Army Ordnance Department as having attended an informal demonstration of the Reising .22 Pistol at Springfield Armory in Massachusetts on June 22, 1920.⁴⁰ Mr. Washburne and Mr. Reising's business and patent relationships lasted until at least 1930, and he apparently financed Reising's various ventures.⁴¹ Mr. Reising was most likely subsisting as a gunsmith and consultant designer during this time, and needed capital. Mr. Washburne believed in Reising's talents, and invested in him. The capital was also needed for Eugene Reising's attempt to restart his firearm manufacturing business under a new business name after his incarceration.

In 1938, Eugene Reising began working on a new design for a submachine gun.⁴² Evidence exists that some of the development took place in Romania, in addition to the United States.⁴³ Sometime in 1939, Harrington & Richardson (H&R) hired him on their R&D team as a consultant firearm designer (Figures 10, 11 and 12). At H&R, Eugene Reising's talents found fertile ground, with World War II providing plenty of opportunity. His Model 50

Submachine Gun became the basis for other designs, including the shortened (Paratrooper) Model 55, the semi-automatic Model 60, and then a series of .22 rifles, the first of which (Model 65) was adopted as a trainer for the M1 Garand Rifle.



Figure 10. Eugene Reising's Harrington & Richardson employee badge, dated 1941.

Little information about the exact arrangements of Eugene Reising's employment with H&R is known, however a 1942 memorandum of agreement involving work on the Reising .30 Carbine caliber rifle indicates employment on a contractual basis.⁴⁴ It is presumed that most, if not all years were spent by Reising with H&R as a consultant. Although H&R never marketed a .30 Carbine semi-automatic rifle, at least two prototype examples exist today in collector hands, and their rifle design was unsuccessfully submitted during the trials for what eventually became the M1 Carbine in 1941. The prototypes are marked ".30 Reising," and utilized the same basic action as other semi-automatic and automatic Reising rifle designs. The prototype submitted to the U.S. government for evaluation, serial number "X18," was gas operated.⁴⁵



Figure 11. Eugene Reising's WWII era H&R business card.

Mr. Reising consulted for other firearms companies besides H&R. In 1944, he developed a prototype semi-automatic rifle for the Marlin Firearms Company in caliber .30 Carbine, and discussed its production by Marlin, however H&R objected because the basic design belonged to them, and the project was cancelled.⁴⁶ A similar weapon was designed by Mr. Reising for Savage Arms in Utica, N.Y., and prototype serial number "X-1" of this weapon is held in the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.⁴⁷ It looks very similar to a Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun, but features a folding spike bayonet.

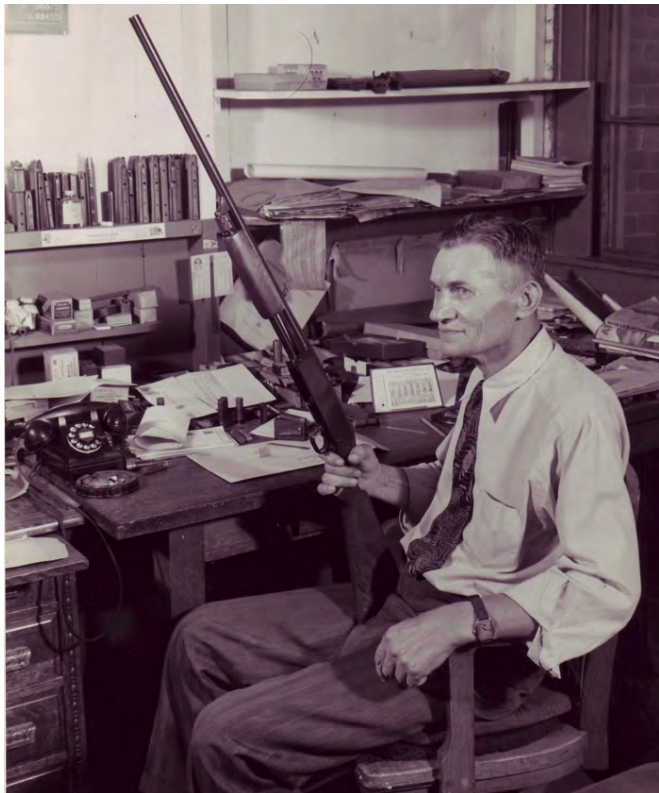


Figure 12. Eugene Reising, 1884-1967. This photo was taken at his desk in July, 1947, presumably at H&R. Seen behind Mr. Reising are several Reising Submachine Gun magazines, including some that appear experimental.

Model 50 Submachine Gun

The United States Marine Corps is customarily the first responder for U.S. ground combat action, but particularly in the past, were usually the last to see new weapons introduced into their service. At the dawn of World War II, the Marines remained armed with M1903 Rifles. They wanted to field a submachine gun, and specifically desired more Thompsons, of which limited supply remained from earlier U.S. Post Office guard duty acquisitions, and other purchases from Auto-Ordnance during the Colt Thompson era of the 1920's and 30's. Supply of new Thompsons were scarce in 1940 and 1941. Production restarted under contract for Auto-Ordnance at Savage in Utica, N.Y. in April, 1940, after an 18-year hiatus since the last of the first batch of 15,000 Thompsons were produced by Colt for Auto-Ordnance. Most Thompsons built in 1940-41 went to Britain, or the U.S. Army. The Auto-Ordnance factory in Bridgeport, Conn. also didn't come online until late 1941. The USMC was low priority, but they still wanted a submachine gun. As a result, in 1940 they approached Harrington & Richardson, who had a new submachine gun design on the market, known as the H&R Reising Model 50, designed by Eugene Reising. The first year of H&R Model 50 Submachine Gun production was mostly sold to law enforcement agencies, until the USMC contract occurred.

The Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun is a closed bolt, delayed blowback, select-fire submachine gun (SMG) with aesthetics more like a carbine. It is inherently more accurate than most other submachine guns of the time, since others operated from open bolt designs. Eugene Reising began designing his SMG in 1938, and brought it to market with H&R in late 1940 (Figures 14, 15 and

16). Many police departments were early adopters of the weapon, and it provided reputable service in the law enforcement environment for many years. The Reising SMG tested very well, and was seriously considered for adoption by the Soviet military, who visited H&R, and took delivery of some units. The weapon even appeared in a Soviet manual of the early WWII period, but was not acquired by them in any large numbers. The U.S. Marines became the first to adopt the Reising in large quantity.



Figure 13. A 7th War Loan poster featured a GI blazing away with a Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun without a magazine.



Figure 14. Eugene Reising and H&R President C. Francis Cowdrey, Jr. pose with a prototype H&R Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun, circa 1940. (Gun has different, Cutts style compensator) Photo courtesy Glen Bergman



Figure 15. A family photo of Eugene Reising, circa 1938-39, with a prototype of his Model 50 Submachine Gun. Notice the actuator bar is on the right forward side of the stock. Image Credit: Clifford Cousens

The Reising Model 50 project became H&R's first federal weapons contract. Existing production of the Model 50 occurred under normal H&R processes of hand-fitting parts to each firearm, thus their parts were not manufactured as completely interchangeable. It would have taken H&R a minimum of several months to gear up for production of any weapon with completely interchangeable parts, and it was not their normal production style, so further delays would have likely occurred had they pursued this route. The Marine Corps knew this, and accepted it when they approached and contracted H&R to supply Reising Model 50 Submachine Guns, but they did not effectively communicate it within USMC ranks. This error eventually did much to taint the weapon's initial military service reputation. Because supply was constrained, and the Marines wanted their submachine gun quickly, their normal policies were set aside to accomplish that goal.



Figure 16. In this photo dated 1/8/41, a representative of the USMC test fires a Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun with tracer rounds.

The first Model 50's delivered to the USMC were the same as those supplied to police departments and other early adopters (Figure 17). The weapon featured a blued finish, a 29-fin barrel, and a 20-round magazine. These early Reising's are commonly referred to by collectors today as "Commercial Reising's," however that was never an official term. It simply serves to differentiate the changes between early Reising SMG's, and those with later production characteristics for the military. Later military versions were parkerized, and had barrels with 14-fins. Some other minor changes were also made to the military versions.

The battle against the Japanese at Guadalcanal became the first instance of combat use of the Reising Submachine Gun. The weapon did not fare well in its initial combat experience for two main reasons:

- Lack of effective Marine communication regarding non-interchangeable parts
- Jungle conditions that quickly rusted the blued finish

The main reasons the Reising Model 50 developed a bad reputation from initial Marine use was not really the fault of the design of the firearm. When the Marines went to Guadalcanal, many Reising's were cleaned communally. Parts were mixed up, and then reassembled into different weapons, resulting in many mechanical failures due to the originally hand-fitted parts, such as bolts. The first USMC Reising SMGs also featured a commercial blued fin-

ish that rusted easily in South Pacific conditions. One infamous Guadalcanal incident involved Lieutenant Colonel Merritt A. Edson, Commander of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, who ordered many of the initial Reising's be dumped in the Lunga River. Part of his reasoning had to do with what had been learned about the parts interchangeability, and the fact that armorers did not have the time or facilities to re-fit parts to individual Reising's. Lieutenant Colonel Edson knew that more Reising's were coming, and made a calculated decision to dump the mixed guns, with the intent of changing operational habits around cleaning and maintenance of the weapons going forward. Unfortunately, the initial bad rap stuck in the minds of many Marines, regardless of the true root causes, and exemplary performance of the Reising SMG under test conditions. In a 1956 letter, Eugene Reising indicated H&R never received a USMC complaint about the Reising SMG.



Figure 17. An early Model 50 Submachine Gun, originally purchased by the City of Pittsburgh. Image Courtesy Ruben Mendiola

Reising Submachine Guns also served on the U.S. home front during World War II, throughout the country at guard posts of strategically important sites (Figure 18). Some issues had been experienced with maintaining the standard 20-round magazines, with their double row, single feed design being prone to feel lip alignment issues due to poor Marine training on them, so a 12-round magazine was designed that improved magazine reliability. Many of the home guard use Reising M50s were furnished with these magazines. A special magazine housing was also designed that only allowed insertion of 12-rounders, though the magazines could also be inserted into standard magazine wells.



Figure 18. This USMC guard at a domestic location during World War II carried a Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun with a 12-round magazine.

Model 55 Submachine Gun

With the advent of airborne forces, and the USMC's Paratroop unit, a modification was requested of H&R to develop a compact version of the Model 50. Eugene Reising subsequently designed and patented a version featuring a pistol grip, and folding wire stock, which H&R designated as the Model 55.⁴⁸ This version initially included a Model 50 action placed into the new folding stock design, and then receivers became marked as the Model 55, and the compensator was also eliminated. The pistol gripped, folding stock design was distinctive, simple, and short (Figures 19 and 20).

Figure 19. This morbid WWII H&R advertisement featured the Reising Model 55 Submachine Gun.



Figure 20. A Marine poses somewhere in the South Pacific during WWII with his Reising Model 55 Submachine Gun.

Model 60 Semi-Automatic Carbine

The Model 60 is a Title 1 firearm - no National Firearms Act (NFA) paperwork required -, and operates only on a semi-automatic basis. It resembles a Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun, but with a longer, 18.25" barrel.⁴⁹ During WWII, approximately 3,248 Model 60's were produced, and used primarily for stateside guard duty, as well as some training.⁵⁰

Eventually, approximately 120,000 Reising Submachine Guns of all types were produced. A small number were manufactured by H&R following the war from 1950-53, and again in 1957. Many Reising Submachine Guns served in police departments for 40 years or more. This was an environment in which they served quite admirably. For NFA enthusiasts today, the Reising remains a comparatively inexpensive, fun, and historic submachine gun to add to a collection. In many ways it is still underrated, under-valued, and bitten by the stigma given it by Marines at Guadalcanal as a result of their own leadership shortcomings.

The post war years at H&R were substantially influenced by Eugene Reising designs, particularly in the company's .22 rifle offerings. This is apparent when perusing catalogs of the period, and observing the shared lines between different versions of H&R rifles that grew out of the Model 65 .22 Rifle, which developed out of the Model 50 .45 ACP Submachine Gun design. H&R smartly prepared for the post-war years during their WWII advertising strategy, mailing out free Reising Submachine Gun manuals to anyone who requested them. The manuals presented a forward focused theme to a time when H&R products would become more plentiful, with government limits removed from the former war effort. The late 1940's and 1950's became those times, and H&R enjoyed a successful peacetime transition, while Mr. Reising played a significant role in their offerings (Figure 21).

One of the free Reising Submachine Gun manuals that H&R distributed during World War II quoted Eugene Reising himself saying that he had, "a distinct advantage over other designers in that instead of being merely an 'office designer,' I get out in the field in competition and get to know my gun and what it can do. Also, by mingling with the fellows who do the shooting, I get first hand comments and criticisms of my gun as well as other guns. This enables me to correct any faults that might develop, and to perfect a gun needed not only right now, but a year or more from now. So when the demand develops, the gun is ready."⁵¹

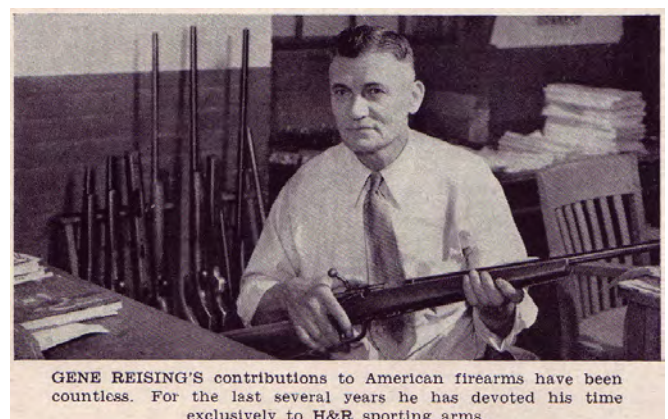


Figure 21. Photo of Gene Reising when with H&R developing sporting rifles.



Figure 22. An example of a standard production Model 65 with early features.

Model 65 Semi-Automatic .22 Rifle (USMC M1 Garand Trainer)

At the dawn of World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps used the same .22 training rifles as the U.S. Army. Most USMC sub-caliber marksmanship training was performed with M1922 Springfield .22 Rifles. When the M1 Garand rifle was finally issued to the Marines, they wanted a trainer that could more accurately simulate their new semi-automatic battle rifle. The Marines set forth requirements in 1942 for a semi-automatic .22 trainer, but no rifles existed at the time that met the requirement.⁵²

The USMC, in customary fashion, received low priority for the M1 Garand transition, even though they were arguably the first service needing it. The Corps had to train thousands of troops quickly on limited supplies of the new M1, and approached Harrington & Richardson for an economical solution outside of the Garand procurement supply chain that ultimately met their needs in sub-caliber form.

The Marine Corps had become familiar with Eugene Reising's work through their adoption of the Models 50 and 55. Despite the Model 50's flawed debut with the Marine Corps, the Reising Submachine Gun was unique and innovative. Eugene Reising designed the weapon with a bolt mechanism operated by way of an action bar recessed in a cutout on the underside of the stock forearm, forward of the magazine. It also operated from a closed bolt, which made it the most accurate submachine gun of its time, and quite different than its open-bolt counterparts. When the USMC approached H&R to design a .22 training rifle to simulate the M1 Garand in 1943, Eugene Reising incorporated the same characteristics of his .45 ACP submachine gun into the new .22 rifle design. The rifle became known as the Harrington and Richardson "Reising" Model 65 .22 Rifle (Figures 22 and 23). Its model number followed in sequence from the earlier .45 ACP Models 50 and 55 submachine guns, and the Model 60 semi-automatic version of the SMG design.



Figure 23. A Model 65 being used in USMC training, circa 1944.

The Model 65 weighs eight and one-half pounds, and has the same sight picture and length of pull as the M1 Garand Rifle that it simulates. When shouldered, the rifle is noticeably heavier than most other .22 rifles, and closely approximates the feel of the M1, although its aesthetics are different. It is very well made, with a black walnut stock. Its semi-automatic action is altogether different than the M1, and loaded by way of a 10-round magazine fed from underneath the action, rather than by an 8-round clip loaded down into the rifle, like the Garand. It shares the same mechanical properties as its .45 caliber predecessors, with the unique, action bar method of cycling the action through a recess on the underside of the stock forend. Eugene Reising designed it with this unique feature to enable cycling the action with minimal positional movement, allowing the shooter to remain focused upon, or allow quicker recovery of sight picture. The rear sight on the Model 65 is an aperture Redfield Model 70-AT. The front sight approximates the M1 sight, and is screwed onto the barrel, with its position retained by a small hex head screw. The overall finish is a very light parkerizing, different than most other military rifle finishes of the time period, with sort of a silvery grey-green hue that is often encountered in very worn condition, most with dark spots and/or freckling that has developed over time. It has a bit of a different "personality" upon firing, as the hammer movement after trigger release produces a slight delay that requires positional follow-through, and some getting used to.

Exact procurement data proves elusive, however, it is commonly believed that the USMC contracted for the manufacture of 6,000 Model 65's from H&R in 1943. In preparation for USMC acceptance, at least one known prototype rifle was built by Eugene Reising. This rifle became acquired by the author through a representative of family members who still retain a number of items from Mr. Reising's estate (Figure 24). The rifle had over 100,000 rounds fired through it in 1943 during tests at both H&R and the USMC. The well-worn tag on the prototype indicates ~20,000 were fired at H&R, and ~80,000 with the USMC. A 1949 H&R catalog references the rifle, and indicates "This sturdy action withstood 144,000 continuous rounds without disassembling for cleaning in U.S. Marine Corps acceptance tests." The prototype rifle is handmade, and simply stamped "Reising .22," without reference to H&R. It is marked with Eugene Reising's characteristic prototype marking of one letter, hidden out of sight, below the stock, on the left side of the receiver of the assembled rifle; in this example it is an "F". The 10-round magazine is also handmade, and shows evidence of its many loadings. Both the rifle and magazine remain in the uncleaned state mentioned in the catalog. At some point, the USMC returned the prototype to H&R, as documented on the tag wired to it with information about its use and ownership, and the rifle became property of Eugene Reising. It's a piece of history,



Figure 24. Prototype to the Model 65, serial number "F." This is the rifle used to evaluate the Model 65 design, and is referenced in later H&R promotional material, indicating it had over 144,000 rounds fired through it during acceptance testing by the USMC. The tag on it indicates it had over 100,000 rounds fired through it, with about 80,000 by the Marines and 20,000 by H&R. We'll never know the exact round count, but it's certainly had a lot of rounds fired through it.

as it is the single rifle whose evaluation determined the USMC's decision to adopt the Reising Model 65 as their .22 trainer for the M1 Garand.

Approximately 18,500 H&R Reising Model 65's were produced between 1943 and 1945 (Figure 25), evidenced by serial numbers collected by the author, and H&R records.⁵³ H&R maintained a forward focused marketing plan during WWII, and began mentioning the Model 65 .22 Rifle in an advertisement at the back of the 1943 version of a Reising SMG manual sent to the public, referring to the Model 65 as "The General," although the rifles were never marked with this name. With approval of the government, H&R began offering Model 65's for civilian sale as the Marine contract concluded. The following excerpt was included in a letter from H&R President Francis Cowdrey Jr. with early civilian Model 65's. "...as you probably know, the gun was designed for them to operate like, look like, and feel like the M1 Combat Weapon so that Marine recruits would have a training rifle of a .22 caliber but with the appearance and weight of the larger weapon."



Figure 25. Eugene Reising poses with a USMC representative and H&R executives with a production Model 65 .22 rifle, 1943.

Slight changes were made to the Model 65 after civilian production began during the war, although the intent of H&R to make the rifle more classically styled eventually resulted in a succession of new model designations. It should be understood that military rifle features were not en vogue with civilian firearm enthusiasts of the 1940's.

In 2015, the author acquired a second prototype Model 65 rifle. This one began as a production gun, but had no production serial number applied, and was marked with Eugene Reising's characteristic prototype marking of one letter, "M," and appears to be a predecessor to the Model 165 (Figure 26). It has a slightly shorter barrel, and a ramped, post front sight. Other than those differences, it is like a production Model 65.

In May 1945,⁵⁴ production transitioned from the Model 65 to the Model 165 "Leatherneck," which was basically the same rifle with a lighter stock, a ramp front sight, and an aluminum or plastic trigger guard, with the rifle's name hearkening back to its USMC origin of use. The Model 165 was made from 1945 to 1948, when it was replaced by the sportier Models 150 and 151, which were also marketed under the "Leatherneck" nickname. The Model 150 had leaf sights, and the Model 151 featured the Redfield Model 70-AT rear sight used on the previous Models 65 and 165.

It is important to note that the H&R "Leatherneck" name never applied to the Model 65. It only applied to the Models 165, 150, and 151, which were roll stamped with the name on their barrels. Many times today, when Model 65's are encountered at gun shows, or online, their owners mistakenly refer to them as "Leathernecks."

Many Reising Model 65's encountered today are altered for scope mounting, and/or are missing parts. Some parts are hard to find, such as early style bolt catches, and Redfield Model 70-AT rear sights.

As previously mentioned, H&R maintained a forward focus during WWII. The War Production Board (WPB) controlled the types of firearms produced, and H&R anxiously awaited the time when such WPB controls would ease. In the author's collection is a second prototype Model 65 that appears to foreshadow the later Model 165 with a ramp front sight, and subsequent Models 150 and 151 (Figure 26). The prototype has early features, including the bolt catch mechanism, stock width, and non-adjustable trigger. It features production rollmarks, without a production serial number. Instead, it has a prototype serial number of "M" marked below the stock line, in the same place as prototype serial number "F." Prototype serial number "M" is not quite as significant as the author's prototype serial number "F," which was the Marine Corps evaluation rifle, but it's a notable discovery nonetheless. If you think about the situation at the time this rifle was likely made (circa 1943-44), the War Production Board would not allow new civilian firearms. It was late 1944 before such controls began to ease. The author believes this prototype was probably an early attempt to prepare for a more sporty, civilian version of the Model 65.



Figure 26. Prototype Model 65, serial number "M." This rifle demonstrates early Model 65 features, but foreshadows the Model 165 in its style.



Figure 27. Model 165 "Leatherneck" .22 rifle.



Figure 28. Model 150 "Leatherneck" .22 rifle.



Figure 29. Model 151 "Leatherneck" .22 rifle.

The H&R Reising Model 65 .22 Rifle has USMC WWII and Korean War history parallel to the M1 Garand that deserves more recognition than it has received. It's an excellent rifle, and one that enabled greater M1 Garand service in combat at a time when the outcome of WWII was yet undetermined. Its subcaliber design also helped conserve standard ammunition for where it was needed the most.

As World War II wound down, and the War Production Board began to allow expanded manufacturing of civilian firearms, H&R's forward focused efforts quickly changed the design of the Model 65 into a lighter, sportier model, which they designated as the Model 165 (Figure 27). The Model 165 incorporated popular design features of the period into the former military rifle. Its introduction in May 1945 coincided with Victory in Europe, and better aligned with design preferences of most customers. Buyers and manufacturers were war weary, and wished to return to the classic lines of pre-war firearms, but with the new features resulting from the war effort. A semi-automatic, magazine fed .22 with the same Redfield Model 70-AT sights as its predecessor, the Model 165 was lighter, at seven pounds, four ounces, with a thinner stock, and an aluminum or plastic trigger guard. Very early models had aluminum trigger guards, and plastic ones quickly appeared as standard. The Model 165 was a transitional model, still

retaining many of the features of the Model 65. The Garand style front sight became replaced by a ramped, leaf front sight, and the stock was changed significantly. A contoured, H&R branded plastic buttplate replaced the flat steel buttplate of the Model 65.

Many Model 165's are found today sans-rear sights, and drilled and tapped for a scope. This was apparently a very popular modification for this model and the subsequent Models 150 and 151. Different scope mounts were utilized, and the drilling and tapping encountered on these rifles often interrupts the H&R stamping at the top of the receiver, or even the serial number on the left side of the receiver.

The rear sight installed by the factory on the Model 165 remained the Redfield Model 70-AT aperture sight; the same sight as was installed on the original Model 65, and subsequent Models 151, and MC-58.

Production of the Model 165 ran from May, 1945, to sometime in 1948, however, in the mid 1950's to around 1962, the rifle was available as a special order. It is featured in the 1956 H&R Catalog.

H&R followed up the transitional Reising Model 165 with the introduction of the Models 150 and 151 (Figures 28 and 29). Both models were lighter, sleeker versions of the Reising .22 rifle series, much more representative of period style preferences. The

difference between a Model 150, and a Model 151 is the rear sight. The Model 150 featured a graduated leaf rear sight installed in a dovetail on the barrel, just forward of the receiver, while the Model 151 retained the Redfield Model 70-AT aperture rear sight as was standard on the previous Models 65 and 165. The Model 150 was cut for a dovetail to install the leaf rear sight, and the Model 151 does not feature a dovetail cut.

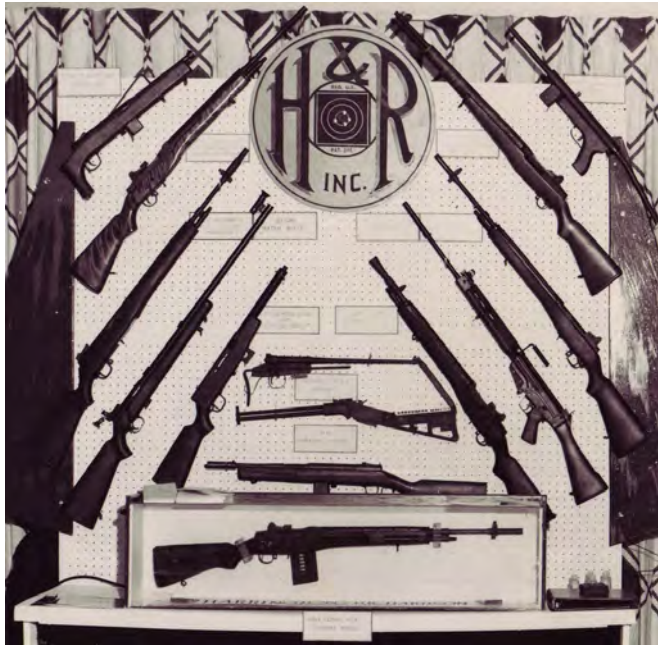


Figure 30. An H&R military product display, circa 1960. At least seven Eugene Reising designed firearms are featured. Clockwise from the top, they are as follows: "Assault" 9 mm Submachine Gun (far upper right), M14 Simulator (3rd down from right), Guerilla Gun (under the T48), Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun (bottom, above M14 Cutaway), "Special Forces" 9 mm Submachine Gun (at 7 o'clock), "Marauder" Tubular receiver M14 Rifle (under M14), Reising Model 55 Submachine Gun (upper left).

It can be a little confusing to sequence the Reising .22 semi-automatic rifle model numbers. The correct chronological sequence is the Model 65, 165, 150, 151, followed by a modified Model 65 that was known as the MC-58. Additionally, Mr. Reising designed a number of bolt action .22 rifles. His legacy continued to live on in later H&R .22 designs after he passed away in 1967. Even the ubiquitous Ruger 10/22 borrowed design features from the Model 65.

Model MC-58 (Second USMC M1 Garand Trainer)

In 1956, Mr. Reising revisited the Model 65 .22 rifle design. The U.S. Marine Corps wanted some small changes to improve usability, and better simulate training for the M1 Garand Rifle. This revised .22 trainer design would eventually become the MC-58 Rifle.⁵⁵ During the USMC trials for the MC-58, H&R and Marlin submitted entries. Marlin submitted their entry in December, 1956, which was based on their Model 89. H&R's submission to the test program possessed all the characteristics desired by the Marine Corps, and ultimately became adopted as the MC-58. The MC-58 was a Model 65 with different markings, and a Garand style safety added to the trigger guard. Only about 3,500 were produced. The test program requirements dispel a long held collector assumption that the MC-58 Rifle was designed specifically

for the M-14 Rifle. That is not the case. The tests were a second opportunity for the USMC to evaluate new training rifle candidates for the M1 Garand Rifle, which remained in use at the time. The selection of the MC-58 validated that the earlier Model 65 remained a viable design. Marines only began to use the M-14 in large numbers around 1962.

Models T30 and M14 Simulator

Eugene Reising also developed some full-auto .22 trainer variations that never saw adoption, but are present in the Springfield Armory collection. The full-auto .22 models were known as T-30's, and were based on Model 65's, with modified 20-round magazines.⁵⁶ In addition to the T-30's, Mr. Reising designed an M14 Rifle simulator in .22 caliber, which is based on the Model 65 and MC-58 Rifles, but should not be confused with either one of them. It was a wholly different firearm that closely resembles the M14.

Summary of Eugene Reising Designed .22 Rifles

The following is a list of rifles designed by, or significantly influenced by Eugene Reising's designs.

Reising Arms Company Pump Action Rifle:

"Bearcat" (Circa 1925 – Prototype Only)

Harrington & Richardson Semi-Auto Rifles:

Model 65 – Designed for the USMC "The General" (1943)

Model 165 "Leatherneck" (1945)

Model 150 "Leatherneck" (1948)

Model 151 "Leatherneck" (1948)

Model MC-58 (Model designation came from the USMC trial process) (1958)

Model 700 (No Nickname)

Model 800 "Lynx" (1957)

Harrington & Richardson Bolt-Action Rifles:

Model 250 "Sportster"

Model 251 "Sportster"

Model 265 "Targeteer"

Model 365 "Reg'lar"

Model 450 "Medalist" (No sights)

Model 451 "Medalist"

Model 865 "Plainsman"

Overall Summary of Eugene Reising Firearm Designs

.30 Cal. Belt Fed MG (1918)

.22 Caliber Semi-Automatic Pistols (1916-1925)

Tubular Magazine .22 Rifle (Late 1920's)

Model 50 and 55 Submachine Guns (1940-1957)

Semi-Auto .45 ACP Rifle (1942-43)

Many Semi-Automatic .22 Rifles (1943-1960's)

Many Bolt Action .22 Rifles (1948-1960's)

Carbine Trials Rifle (1941)



Figure 31. Two Eugene Reising designed 9 mm submachine guns of the late 1950's to early 1960's that never saw production by H&R. The first was nicknamed "Special Forces" (Top) and the second was nicknamed "Assault" (Bottom)

At least 2 Prototype 9mm Submachine Guns (1950's-60's)

M-14 Simulator .22 (~1962)

Full Auto .22 Simulators (Early 1950's)

Simplified M-14 Design (Tubular receiver) (1962)

Guerilla Rifle (A lightened M14 with special muzzle brake) (1962)

Misc. One-Off Prototype Rifles (Various Dates)

Pump Action High Power Rifles (2 known prototypes) (1950's)

Pump Action Shotgun (Circa 1947)

Also submitted designs to Marlin and Savage (WWII)

During his career, Eugene Reising developed many prototype firearms. Prototypes for H&R were customarily marked with a single letter for their serial number. Two prototype Model 65's in the author's collection are serial numbers "F," and "M." During the 1950's, Mr. Reising designed several new firearms for H&R, some of which were adopted by the company, while some were not (Figure 30). Two examples of designs that did not become adopted were 9 mm submachine guns (Figure 31).

In 1962, H&R still employed the 78-year old Eugene Reising, and described his experience and contributions as follows:

"Mr. Reising attended Lehigh University. While working under John Browning, Reising made significant contributions to the design of the Colt Automatic Pistol, caliber .45, which has been the standard service side arm of the U.S. Military and Naval Forces. He has developed successful designs of repeating and self-loading rifles for Mossberg, Marlin, Savage and Stevens Arms companies. The H&R Reising submachine gun, caliber .45, and the H&R Reising semi-automatic pistol, caliber .22, both designed by

Mr. Reising, are considered by many firearm experts to be the finest weapons of their type ever developed. Reising holds more than ninety patents on improved guns of all types and has been with H&R's Research and Development Department since 1939.

Recently, Mr. Reising has designed the Simulator, caliber .22, a training weapon for the new standard M-14, caliber 7.62mm U.S. Army rifle. He has also developed and designed a series of muzzle brakes, compensators and flash suppressors for a variety of military weapons, and has contributed to the design of a lightweight guerrilla semi-automatic and automatic rifle."⁵⁷



Based on this embellished biography, H&R was obviously proud of Mr. Reising's contributions made to the company over 23 years of employment at that time, and he was arguably the most influential firearm designer in H&R's 115 year company history. H&R's 1952 Catalog referred to him as "generally acknowledged as being the greatest living small arms inventor."⁵⁸ The author's hope is that the preceding accounts of Eugene Reising's work will generate more appreciation for his efforts and accomplishments in the field of firearm design.

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The author recommends Frank Iannamico's 1999 book on the Reising Submachine Gun³ for those who want to study the Models 50, 55, and 60 in more detail, as well as their U.S. Marine Corps and international military service.

