

The Liberator Pistol

When you think of World War II and bring up the word Liberator, two subjects come to mind. One is the B-24 bomber airplane, and the other is the handgun that was dropped in the European theater to be used by the resistance. The idea was to drop these firearms behind enemy lines, and the resistance would then have a weapon that they could use to build an arsenal, adding the weapons seized from the enemy. This program created much dissention between its supporter's and detractors. The other idea was to produce a firearm that was highly economical and could be built rapidly. And that was what happened. But putting the plan into use was snagged with political opinions and negative reaction.

In 1942 the idea was approved. The factory code for the Liberator was "Flare Projector" or model FP-45. The caliber was 45 ACP, and it was thought to have a useful range of 25feet. This was with consideration that it had a smooth bore barrel. All pieces were stamped from a corrosion resistance metal. A complete pistol kit consisted of a waxed cardboard box, 10 cartridges that were stamped FA-42, an instruction graphic diagram and a wooden shell extractor dowel. About 1,000,000 of these pistols were manufactured, and the design to completion only took six months. The actual factory production time was 11 weeks using 300 workers.

The operation of the firearm was quite simple and simple enough to have a cartoon operation sheet with out words. Pull back on the cocking knob and twist 45 degrees to hold it back, lift on the back plate, insert 45 ACP cartridge, push the back plate back in place, twist the cocking knob to line up with cartridge, pull trigger and bang. It indeed was simple to operate.

Some of the people in power thought the idea of arming the resistance to be a good idea while others in power did not go along with this. As a result, there were non issued; and there was no indication that any were dropped behind enemy lines. Many were shipped to Allied forces. It was also thought that significant numbers were destroyed or dropped in the ocean. Which makes this pistol one of the rarest around. Original one's command big dollars if in good shape, and even bigger dollars with the original accessories. If you are a WWII military collector, you just must have one of these in your collection.



Liberator FP-45
Caliber 45 acp
4" Barrel
Serial #None

There is a company that is producing replicas of these single shot pistols. The construction has been improved to meet the new standards, and they can be fired. Mine is an original; and it has been fired but not by me. I have no desire whatsoever to fire it. Mechanically it is sound, but what if?

ANTIQUES ARMS GAZETTE

Newsletter of Old Guns Canada, Delta BC

Volumes 1, 2 & 3

<https://www.oldgunscanada.com/antique-arms-gazette-archive>

All Members please note:

HACS Membership & renewals are \$40 per year available at the Membership Desk at all our shows.

Memberships may be renewed by mail with a \$40 cheque and self addressed and stamped return envelope but there could be up to 3 months delay depending on when you mailed it as they will not be processed until the next show. Our one-day shows are bi-monthly on Sundays from 9am to 2pm.

Check out our website for show dates hacsbc.ca

IMPORTANT NOTICE Please read... I'm sure there are members who are not getting the newsletter because I don't have their email addresses. If you know of a member in this situation, please tell them to email me

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HACS NEWSLETTER AD SPACE Send Ads to crescentknifeworks@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADS.

For sale - Sako Av Rifle 7mm rem. mag. Made in Finland, 22" barrel, Leather sling.

Leupold 3-9 Vari-X Scope—no lens caps.

Excellent Condition
\$1200

For sale - Browning Superposed Shotgun

30" barrels

Nice condition

Note: Shotgun is originally 2 3/4 in. However, previous owner had it rechambered for 3"

Manufactured in 1951—I believe this is the first year of manufacture.

\$1050

Email: mulders@eastlink.ca

Canadian Firearms Safety Courses & Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education Courses & Exams. – Certified Examiner – Contact Al Simmons 604 291-1952.

OLD GUNS CANADA (<https://www.oldgunscanada.com>) is Canada's largest website for antique handguns. My newsletter reaches over 1000 collectors across the country, and the website gets over 15,000 visits each month. I am trying to compile a directory of services specifically for collectors of antique guns:

- Parts
- Repair & restoration service
- Expertise / expert advice
- Obsolete ammo
- Buy, sell, trade

If you want to be included in this directory, please contact me at cakluftinger@gmail.com or call me at 778-386-6686.

Wanted – Pocket Knives made in the U.S., England, (Sheffield) Germany, Italy Sweden, or France. Need to be in excellent to good condition. Fair prices paid in cash. See me at the show or send pictures. crescentknifeworks@gmail.com

HACS Show dates for 2023.

Jan 22 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall, Chilliwack. Busy show with a great turnout!

Mar 18 9AM – 5PM Heritage Park, Chilliwack. This is the big one we all wait for,

Mar 19 9AM – 3PM Heritage Park. Chilliwack. it was outstanding as usual.

May 28 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall. Chilliwack.

July 16 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall. Chilliwack.

Sept 10 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall. Chilliwack.

Nov 18 9AM – 4PM Evergreen Hall. Chilliwack.

Nov 19 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall. Chilliwack.