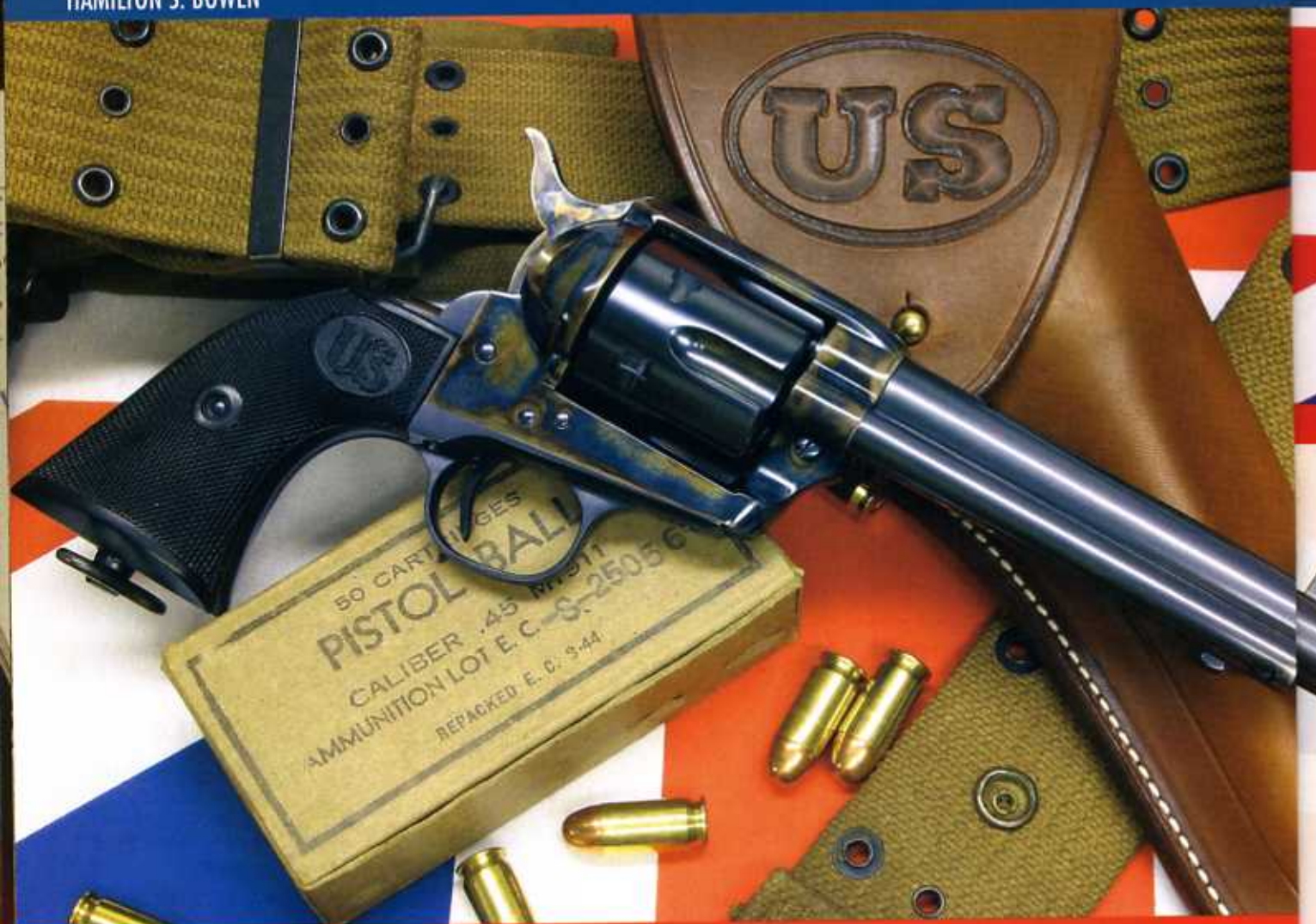


# U.S.F.A.'S

*"We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."*

—Winston Churchill, June 4, 1940

HAMILTON S. BOWEN



**F**air enough, but fight with what? Britain, like the United States, was woefully unprepared for the outbreak of WWII.

Pitifully unarmed, Britain could neither produce nor afford the necessary equipment for her defense. Within 10 days of Churchill's speech, Paris would fall to the German invaders. Within a month the Battle of Britain commenced. If the Germans took control of the air over the English Channel, the vaunted Royal Navy

would be sore-pressed to stop Operation Sea Lion, the German invasion of Britain planned for September 21<sup>st</sup>.

While Britain won the Battle of Britain, the threat of invasion did not completely abate. The U-boats were enjoying the "happy time," sinking dozens of freighters each month with minimal losses to themselves. In these dark days, Britain needed every gun, every tank, every plane she could get. Fortunately Britain had the sympathies of her colonial cousins and on

March 11, 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend Lease Act which opened the coffers and factories of America to the embattled Allies.

## **Guns Please?**

Adequate production of war material didn't occur overnight, so stop-gap measures were undertaken. So serious were shortages of side arms, especially 1911s, the British Purchasing Commission took anything and everything they



# PATRIOT

## 'LEND LEASE' SAA



The Rybka holster is "just right" for the patriot.



could get their paws on, including, believe it or not, 161 Colt single-action revolvers (see *Revolvers of the British Services, 1854-1954*, Chamberlin and Taylorson, Museum Restoration Service, Pub., 1989).

Modern warfare is a broad-based effort, won as much in the factories and laboratories as on the battlefields. Not all heroics are performed in the face of gunfire. Factory workers worked brutally long hours during WWII, often in hellish conditions where safety was often sacrificed to speed production. Test, ferry and instructor pilots died by the hundreds. Merchant marine sailors died by the thousands in U-boat attacks. Their Herculean efforts made possible the Lend Lease program which shared our industrial might with our allies and ultimately lead to victory over the Axis powers.

### A Special SAA

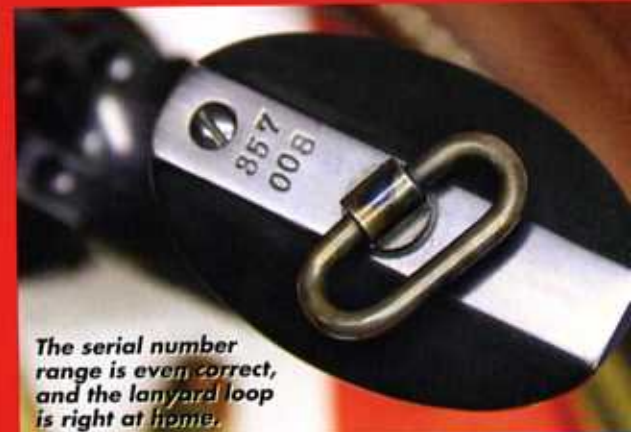
To honor their courage and industry, United States Firearms has introduced the Lend-Lease model, first in their Patriot Series of single-action revolvers to commemorate significant events in our history. But this is not just a commemorative model. It is an accurate, if composite, representation of the SAA models sent to England, with few liberties taken. Even the serial number range is correct, run-

ning from 357,000 on.

The rest is pure SAA, done in the very best style. The receiver is spectacularly color case-hardened with the balance of the metalwork carbona blued. The fit and finish of the metalwork takes one back to the glorious pre-war era when highly skilled artisans undertook these tasks in American arms factories. The black, hard rubber grips are marked appropriately with a bold "U.S." logo. No service revolver would be complete without proper leather so Thad Rybka, leather-wizard extraordinaire, applied his genius and imagination to the problem and produced a holster that could have come right out of the supply rooms of the U.S. Ordnance Corps.

### A Shooter

This particular gun was not destined to be a cabinet queen so was put through its paces at the range. Rimless ammo isn't notoriously accurate in revolvers but the Lend Lease gun performed surprisingly well. Off-hand groups at 25 yards ran in the 2—2½" range, fired with generic reconditioned ball reloads. Part of the



The serial number range is even correct, and the lanyard loop is right at home.

secret to this success lay in cylinder throat sections thoughtfully cut at .451".

Every day, members of the Greatest Generation head out on that last patrol from which they will not return. United States Firearms offers us a chance to own a working memorial to their industry and bravery. Thanks to their sacrifices in WWII, freedoms we all too often take for granted were preserved.

For more info, contact U.S.F.A., P.O. Box 1901, Hartford, CT 06144-1901, (877) 277-6901, [www.usfirearms.com](http://www.usfirearms.com); Rybka Custom Leatherwork, 2050 Canoe Creek Road, Springville, AL 35146.