

Taisho Number 67 Review
By Dale Crabtree

Recently I had the good fortune of being able to do an in-depth examination of *Taisho* era Type-14 Nambu serial number 67 from the Nagoya Army Arsenal/Chigusa Factory. This article is an attempt to keep collectors of things Nambu and Banzai members up to date on one of these hard to find pistols.

Overall condition of this pistol is approximately 80 to 85 percent range and all matching. There is some very minor pitting on both grip straps and in two small locations on the barrel and it does have the normal holster wear on the high points as can be expected. The bore is bright and rifling is excellent.

It carries both the “*TA*” (田) and “*MON*” (門) marks in the “A” position location just forward of the date stamp on the right side of the frame. On the left side of the frame is the “*NA*” (名) inspection mark in the “B” position, which indicates that this pistol did go through the recall of 1932 for the magazine safety block change as well as being modified for the new firing pin length.

The safety is numbered 67 with the “Pentagon” symbol (◇). The magazine release, magazine safety block and sear bar all are numbered 67 but do not have any inspection marks that I could find. The sear bar retaining pin is not serialized nor does it have an inspection mark. The safety retains some straw while the sear bar; sear bar retaining pin and magazine safety block retain almost all of their straw color. In addition, they all show very little wear.

The firing pin is the polished 73mm length type and is not numbered nor could I find an inspection mark on it. The firing pin guide is the flat 47mm type and is not numbered but does carry the “*JYO*” (條) inspection mark while the bolt and locking block carry the “*JYO*” (條) inspection mark and both are serialized with the numbers 67. The barrel housing is only marked with “*TA*” (田) mark and serial number 67.

While the frame does have the early feature of having the serial number placed on the inside of the trigger guard slide location, the trigger guard also carries the early feature of having the serial number (67) placed on the inside of the barrel housing stop vice on top of the trigger guard itself. The trigger itself is numbered 67 and carries the inspection marks of “*TO*” (東) and “*to*” (卜).

The 25 grooved grips are still very sharp in appearance and do not show a lot of wear. Although it is hard to make out any inspection marks, the right grip is marked in pencil with the numbers 67 while the left grip is unmarked or the pencil mark has faded over time.

The cocking knob is the early standard grooved type and properly serialized to the pistol with a very faint inspection mark of “*TO*” (東). It also has the 3mm groove on the face of the cocking knob, which is normally associated with the Tokyo and Kokura arsenals.

The magazines were replaced during the rebuild program, however, both are numbered 67 and carry the "se" (セ) mark, which was used on parts at Kokura. One has the Kokura (Type-3) base while the other has either a Tokyo (Type-2) or Kokubunji (Type-4) base.

This pistol was received with a leather Type-3 holster (dated Showa 13) as well as a nickel-cleaning rod bearing the "N" inspection mark from the Kokubunji arsenal.

Another comment to point out is that by viewing the numeric stamps and their placement in relationship to each other, parts (except magazines) that were replaced during the arsenal rebuild such as the bolt, locking block, cocking knob, magazine safety block, trigger and sear bar are all stamped with the same die stamps as the 7 is not in line (off set) from the 6 stamp in almost every case.

Based upon my review I believe that the pistol was rebuilt at the Nagoya/Chigusa arsenal somewhere in the late 1935 or early 1936 time frame (for change incorporation) and then did not see a lot of use thereafter. As noted in "*Japanese Military Cartridge Handguns 1893-1945*," by Harry L. Derby & James D. Brown, the overall finish on these early Nagoya/Chigusa pistols is not near as good those produced at the same arsenal in later production runs, but it still worthy of belonging to any collection.