

RELIC RIFLES RECOVERED FROM U. S. S. MAINE

SUNK IN HAVANA HARBOR.



RIFLE RECOVERED FROM THE WRECK OF THE U. S. S. MAINE in Havana harbor, Cuba by U. S. Navy Department, and sold to Francis Bannerman, as shown by copies of the correspondence together with the bill from the U. S. Navy Department. Price of rifle, \$40.00.
Five U. S. Springfield Breech-loading 45-calibre Rifles received from the wreck of U. S. S. Maine. Price, \$25.00 each.

Cable Address, "Bannerman"

ESTABLISHED 1906.

TELEPHONE, 1754 SPRING.

Corner Warren,
1204-1205 BROADWAY,
BROOKLYN.

Francis Bannerman,

ORDNANCE,
WAR RELICS,
MILITARY GOODS.

OFFICE,
579 BROADWAY.

New York, Jan 24 1900



75. ORDNANCE OFFICE,
NEW YORK NAVY YARD,
RECEIVED JAN 26 1900

Endorsed
NAVY YARD, NEW YORK
JAN 26 1900

Dear Admiral John W. Phelps
Comd'g New York Navy Yard

Sir. We understand that your office has the number of the Rifle lately sold to me as recovered from the "U. S. S. Maine". Will you kindly have your men check the number on my bill enclosed. So that they will not get mixed up with others in our store. I should like to advise you must have the names of the ships sent me from which the cartridges shell (as per enclosed bill) came from - i.e. vessels which turned in cartridge shells since last sale. We wish to give our customers the correct honest report of these old relics and thank you very kindly for ordering us.
Yours respectfully
Francis Bannerman

Respectfully referred
to the Inspector of
Ordnance for the
information necessary
to enable Comman-
dant to reply to
writer.

No. 1

New York, New York, JAN 2 1900 189

Mr. Francis Bannerman
To U. S. NAVY DEPARTMENT.

REAR ADMIRAL, U. S. N.
Commandant Navy Yard & Station.

LOT QUANTITY SALE OF CONDEMNED STORES BY SEALED PROPOSALS
No. NO. OR. LESS DEC 27 1899

60 54 Rifles, 6 in - 700
6 Springfield Rifles, Cal. 45
(From U. S. S. Maine)

67 in rifles, Lee straight pull. Numbers of -
9978 - 7178 - 8582 - 6525 - 5994 - 7380 - 7760 - 6868
6479 4694 8464 7281 7850 73 6174 8138
8486 6943 7131 8267 3867 8527 8373 8808
5808 9582 6938 9332 8333 6917 7151 7680
6483 5399 8960 2357 9076 9820 6472 6547
7027 6458 6799 8409 8700 6107 9622 4957
6627 7367 8586 7825 9722 5328 - -

Springfield Rifles cal. 45 Numbers of -

472841 - 472941 - 322599 - 311218 - 322634 -
472927

Mr. Joyce Gunner U.S.N.

No. 2

75

2nd ENDORSEMENT

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK.

Jan. 27, 1900 1898

Respectfully returned. Contents noted.

Information asked for written in on face of bills as requested.

Commander, U. S. N.,
Inspector of Ordnance.

Navy Magazine Rifles, relics from U. S. S. Maine. These rifles were offered for sale by the United States Navy Department at New York Navy Yard, December 27, 1899, by proposals publicly advertised as the identical rifles taken from the wreck after the explosion in Havana harbor. Our bid being the highest, the rifles were delivered to us. Each rifle has factory number stamped on it, also the United States Navy Inspector's stamp, and the Navy Mark—an anchor. The officer delivering these rifles and valuable relics has the number of gun on his books. We mention all this to show the proofs we can furnish with each gun. We will give every purchaser a copy of the bill we received from the Navy Department, with our state number of the guns marked on the bill over the signature of United States Navy Officers—Admiral Philip kindly ordered the numbers of each gun marked on our bill—with our state under notary's seal if desired. Only a limited number were saved. One of the naval officers who obtained one of these relics refused to part with it, although offered \$75.00. We will, short time, offer them at \$40.00 each. They are valuable in our estimation only as relics. We have no doubt some of them could be cleaned up and put in serviceable order. The complete with the breech bolts, sights and sling straps, just as they were placed in the gun racks on the evening of the explosion. Even the front sight protector is still on the gun. They under water and were brought up by the divers employed. No bayonets were recovered. The calibre is .236-100. Point-blank range was over 600 yards. At five feet from the muzzle penetration would be through 60 boards, 2 1/2 of an inch in thickness, or through a steel plate 1/2 of an inch thick. The rifle's bolt was made for the United States Navy.