

UNUSUAL WINCHESTER - INLAND (?) HAND GUARD

Frank Havlicek purchased a “mostly correct” lined-out Underwood AW carbine 6465992 (assembled by Winchester). It is not known if the 2-rivet hand guard is factory-original to this carbine, but it is doubtful that a 2-rivet hand guard would have been used on a carbine assembled in early 1945. The interesting feature of this hand guard is its markings. The **Ol** mark has been altered by hand-stamping an **X** over the **l**...and there is a Winchester-style **W** on the other side.



The **W** is the same size, font, and location on the hand guard, as is found on known-original Winchesters.

Opposite of the **W** is what appears to be a smaller Overton **O**, but Frank reports that - upon close examination with a magnifying glass, it is more likely a partially-stamped ordnance bomb.



There have been no records located to indicate a transfer of hand guards from Inland to Winchester at any time during WWII production. It is certainly possible that Overton may have sent some **OI** marked hand guards directly to Winchester to alleviate a shortage. This would explain the crossing out of the Inland marking. Until we learn more, this item will remain a mystery.

Marty Black
