

Chapter I.—Continued

UNLOADING ACTION.

On drawing back the bolt sleeve, the cocking piece and firing pin are brought back with it while the bolt remains forward, thus compressing the mainspring between the collar of the retreating firing pin and the mainspring retainer on the momentarily stationary bolt, but the spirals on the sleeve acting upon the spirals of the bolt cause it to rotate from left to right until the bolt lugs are clear of the resisting shoulders of the receiver, when the bolt head is free to come back out of the breech.

Since the lugs of the bolt head are cut to a screw pitch, this rotation of the bolt head causes it to recede very slightly, but enough to loosen the fired case and start it from the chamber, thus effecting primary extraction.

As the bolt head becomes unseated from the resisting shoulders, the short spirals of the bolt and sleeve engage and hold the bolt head extended from the sleeve against the pressure of the compressed mainspring. On further drawing back the bolt sleeve the bolt comes with it to the rear, bringing with it the fired case, which is still held fast to the bolt head by the claw of the extractor, until it reaches the ejector on the left of the receiver, which, passing through the slot in the bolt head, comes in contact with the rim of the fired case and kicks it out of the rifle to the right.

CARE AND CLEANING.

The rifle should never be used for any other purpose than that for which it is made, viz.: For shooting, for rifle exercises, and for bayonet fighting.

It should never be used for carrying weights

It should never be used for a seat or as a prop.

It should never be used as a hammer or for peg driving.

The muzzle should never be plugged, nor the browning removed, nor should any gritty or abrasive substance be used in cleaning. Never use the wire gauze on the pull-through except by permission of the company, platoon or section commander after his inspection.

Wear in the bore of a rifle is due to three causes, viz.:

1. The friction of the bullet.
2. Heat generated when the ammunition is fired.