

## Inglis P35 Pistol

High-Power pistols were also produced in Canada for Allied use, by John Inglis and Company in Toronto. The plans were sent from the FN factory to the UK when it became clear the Belgian plant would fall into German hands, enabling the Inglis factory to be tooled up for Hi-Power production for Allied use. Inglis produced two versions of the Hi-Power, one with an adjustable rear sight and detachable shoulder stock (primarily for a Nationalist Chinese contract) and one with a fixed rear sight. Production began in late 1944 and they were on issue by the March 1945 Operation Varsity airborne crossing of the Rhine into Germany. The pistol was popular with the British airborne forces as well as covert operations and commando groups such as the Special Operations Executive (SOE), the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the British Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment. Inglis High-Powers made for Commonwealth forces have the British designation 'Mk 1', or 'Mk 1\*' and the manufacturer's details on the left of the slide. They were known in British and Commonwealth service as the 'Pistol No 2 Mk 1', or 'Pistol No 2 Mk 1\*' where applicable. Serial numbers were 6 characters, the second being the letter 'T', e.g. 1T2345. Serial numbers on pistols for the Chinese contract instead used the letters 'CH', but otherwise followed the same format. When the Chinese contract was cancelled, all undelivered Chinese-style pistols were accepted by the Canadian military with designations of 'Pistol No 1 Mk 1' and 'Pistol No 1 Mk 1\*'



In April of 1943, China requested 180,000 Hi-Powers with wooden shoulder stocks/holsters through the Mutual Aid Plan with Canada. John Inglis and Company would make the pistols; however, various problems had to be overcome. Licensing of the design subsequently was undertaken with representatives of FN and Browning.

Production drawings were also necessary, and their acquisition was progressing on various fronts. The British offered the drawings produced by Saive at no charge. Also, an original set of Belgian drawings was supposed to be sent from southern France. Inglis engineers also had six examples of pistols from the pre-war Chinese contract, which they were reverse engineering. It was still considered important to recruit two Belgian engineers, Saive and Rene Laloux, who had worked on the final production of FN pistols before the war. In August of 1943, an agreement was reached to pay FN a royalty of 25 cents for each of the 180,000 pistols, plus 15 cents on pistols over that number, but to not produce more than 250,000 total.

As Inglis neared production of the Hi-Power, more interest in the pistols came from the Canadian armed forces and the British Special Operations Executive, or SOE, which had a clandestine, behind-the-lines mission similar to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) of the U.S. The SOE wanted 50,000 Inglis Hi-Powers, but not with the Chinese wooden stocks/holsters or tangent sights.

### **Contract Suspended**

By January of 1944, prototypes of the Chinese Inglis Hi-Power were being tested, and production began in February. The Chinese had specified that the pistols come with holster stocks largely because of the popularity of similarly stocked Mauser C96 "Broomhandles" in that country. Inglis produced the metal parts for the holster stocks themselves but subcontracted the wooden parts to Small Arms Limited (SAL) in Long Branch, Ontario. The contract called for SAL to make 140,000 holster stocks and 40,000 canvas holsters.

But as the initial 4,000 Inglis Hi-Powers delivered to the Chinese were sitting in warehouses in India rather than fighting the Japanese, the Canadian Government Mutual Aid Board suspended the contract. Only these 4,000, plus an additional 14,487 awaiting shipment, had been produced. Even these 14,487 pistols did not make it to China. In addition, orders that had materialized from the Canadian and British armed forces, as well as the SOE, would absorb these "No. 1" Chinese contract pistols, plus later production.

The story of the Chinese Inglis Hi-Powers was not over, however, as an additional 39,760 pistols were delivered to China between June and November of 1945 under a new contract. China asked for more aid, but it was denied, as the Communists appeared almost certain to defeat the Nationalist Chinese. In fact, Communists later captured and used many of the Hi-Powers that were delivered to the Nationalist government.

## **Stock**

However, before we leave the Chinese pistols, a bit more should be said about the holster stocks. For the various Chinese contracts, SAL had manufactured 29,038 holster stocks. However, as of September 7, 1945, when the final contract was cancelled, there were 1,053 surplus stocks on hand. This became a boon to collectors who could acquire some of these stocks in virtually new condition over the years.

## **After The War**

To meet demand, Inglis developed the “No. 2” version, which eliminated the tangent sight and stock lug. During testing, some changes were suggested to the barrel lug, slide, ejector and extractor, resulting in the No. 2 Mk1\* Inglis. This pistol was produced for the SOE, which also received some of the leftover Chinese No. 1 pistols. British and Canadian armed forces also tested it. In September of 1944, the Canadian Army adopted the Inglis No. 2 Mk1\* with some of their first deliveries also coming from the leftover Chinese No. 1 models. Production of the No. 2 Mk1\* accelerated. By January of 1945, the Canadian armed forces had ordered 25,400 pistols. In addition, by May that same year, the Canadian army had received a total of 8,479 No. 1 pistols and 50,648 No. 2 Mk1\* pistols.

Meanwhile, the British army continued testing and evaluating the No. 2 Mk1\*. Late in 1944, a decision was made to adopt the No. 2 Mk1\* for British airborne forces. Military leaders issued an initial requirement of 20,000 pistols on November 26, 1944, with 18,343 of those diverted from the SOE. On January 10, 1945, the British ordered another 15,000 pistols for its airborne forces and some other “non-traditional” combat units. However, the British military did not adopt the English Hi-Power for its other branches.

By October of 1945, the British had received 48,721 Inglis Hi-Powers, including 17,008 No. 1 variants. With the war over, 10,200 of the Inglis pistols that had been produced for the British were still sitting in a Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps depot awaiting delivery instructions. Until the mid-1950s, the Hi-Power remained the standard-issue pistol for British airborne troops. In 1954, the army decided to replace its .38-caliber revolvers with Browning Hi-Power pistols. However, there were not enough Inglis pistols to fill the need. Those in service were kept running via refurbishment at RSAF Enfield. But by the end of the 1950s, the supply of spare parts from Canada was depleted. As a result, in 1964 the British began buying FN Hi-Powers from Belgium, which were adopted as the L9A1. Some of these are still in use today, though they’re being replaced by the Glock 17.

## **Inglis Hi-Power Specs**

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Barrel:** 4.4 inches

**OA Length:** 7.7 inches

**Weight:** 34 ounces (empty)

**Grips:** Plastic

**Sights:** Front post, tangent or notch rear

**Action:** DA/SA

**Finish:** Parkerized

**Capacity:** 14+1