



## Pedersen Device, ca. 1918



John Pedersen, of Remington Firearms Company, designed this device that converted a M1903 rifle into a semi-automatic rifle. Each time the user pulled the trigger, the rifle fired and reloaded. In the case of an enemy assault, it was to provide overwhelming firepower. The increased rate of fire also possibly could have helped to break the stalemate of trench warfare. Over one hundred thousand were ordered, but the war ended before they could be used. Declassified in 1931, all such devices were ordered to be destroyed. Today intact Pedersen devices are rare.

*Donated by John Kaler, 1983.35.10*

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."