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Rare British Lee-Speed Sporting Enfield Rifle .375 Nitro Express BSA c.1907

Commonwealth Arsenal

A+(3670)

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Used Condition

FFL is required

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Immediate Checkout - Credit Card

3% Credit Card Fee

Current Bid

\$2,101.01

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\$0.01

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\$

Enter Amount

Bid

Minimum bid: \$2,126.01

No Reserve!

14 Bids | Bid History

Time Left | 15 min rule

9d +

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4/16/2025 9:03 PM

Item viewed 270 times.

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Additional Terms of Sale

Your bid constitutes a legally binding contract. As always. All questions regarding anything deemed of importance must be asked prior to bidding.

Shipping anywhere other than the lower 48 extra(if you have concerns, please contact me before bidding). All firearms requiring registration are shipped from an FFL to FFL or a C&R holder(where allowed by law). Shipping occurs Tuesdays-Fridays, and items generally ship within two business days, but may take up to six business days to ship. Edged weapons and firearms that are antiques or otherwise not requiring registration(black powder muzzle loaders, flare guns, starter pistols), will require proof that the buver is

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Item Description

Please read the [Additional Terms of Sale](#) and [Item Characteristics](#) for important listing details. You must contact your FFL transfer dealer and have them send a copy of their license with your name, username, the item and order numbers to the seller.

PENNY START, ELEVEN DAY, NO RESERVE AUCTION

Lee-Speed Bolt-Action Rifle: ca.1907 Birmingham Small Arms Production/Commercial Sales: Barrel: 25" Round: Capacity: Three Rounds .375 Flanged Nitro Express 2 ½"; LOP: 14 ¼"; Weight: 7lbs 1oz

Desirable factory engraved Lee-Speed bolt-action express rifle by Birmingham Small Arms Co...manufactured at the Birmingham factory ca.1907 for retail on the British market. A classic British sporting arm from the height of the safari age, the Lee-Speed was the sporting variant of the venerable Magazine Lee-Enfield, which, in its Lee-Netford form, had been adopted by the British military some 20 years prior to this rifle's manufacture.

A deluxe version, the rifle features a 25" round barrel with ramp-mounted blade front sight, three-leaf, platinum-lined folding express sight(two folding, one standing, graduated out to 300 yards) mounted at mid-barrel, and turned-down bolt handle with flatted knob and thumb safety mounted to the right of the cocking piece. The bridge was made with no provision for charging guide nor any grooves cut for a dust cover, the action is equipped with a standard magazine cut-off, and the rifle is fed by a three-round detachable box magazine.

The metal surfaces are finished in a commercial grade rust blue, and the rifle is stocked in nicely figured English Walnut finished with fine line hand checkering on the forearm and on the grip of the uncapped pistol grip stock, the former terminating in a flat buttplate of case hardened milled steel with a silver oval escutcheon on the toeline, and eyelets for a sling are mounted under the barrel and on the stock's lower comb. The markings include the BSA stacked arms hallmark on top of the barrel knox, matching numbers on the receiver, bolt handle and barrel, "BSA Co" on the right buttsocket strap, and Birmingham House proofs throughout. Embellishment is provided by masterfully-executed factory engraving in the form of celtic knot borders around the receiver and trigger guard along with line bordering on the buttplate, sunbursts on the screw heads, floral flourishes on the magazine well tang, and surprisingly intricate scroll work on the bottom of the box magazine.

Highly regarded in its day, the Lee-Speed was heavily marketed towards officers and NCOs who were preparing to embark on assignment in the colonies and hoping to bag exotic game in some remote corner of the British Empire. Chambered in the potent .375 Flanged Nitro-Express, this rifle would have been ideal for most woodland and plains hunting, and suitable for the thinner-skinned dangerous game, including the big cats. A top-of-the-line, quintessentially British sporting rifle from the early 20th Century, Lee-Speeds are rarely seen on the collector's market, and engraved examples-especially those in a non-standard chambering-are highly sought-after by Enfield enthusiasts. In a lovely state of preservation, this beautifully appointed Lee-Speed rifle is a strong investment piece that would still be capable of performing afield, and represents an outstanding find for the advanced collector.

Condition

Very fine, the metal surfaces retain 92% of their factory applied rust blue with edge and operational wear that is heaviest around the muzzle, some light spotting and staining from lubricant, and neither rust nor notable pitting is observed. The markings are well-struck and correct, all are unbuffed, the nitro proofs show "halos" around the edges, all numbers are matching, and no import or export mark was found. The furniture rates as very good, showing handling marks in the form of pressure dents and abrasions, as well as a few light bruises, wear to the checkering, some old, clean-over oxidation on the buttplate, and no cracks, chips or repairs are noted. Mechanically flawless, the action is smooth, and the bore is graded as very good plus, remaining bright with rifling that is crisp and well-defined. There is some faint abrasion from cordite flash, and the bore should clean to slightly better.

This item is C&R eligible and will ship directly to license holders unless prohibited by local law.

Item Characteristics

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Manufacturer | Enfield | Model | Other Model |
| Barrel Length | 25 inch | Caliber | Other Caliber |
| Total Capacity | 3 | UPC | |

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