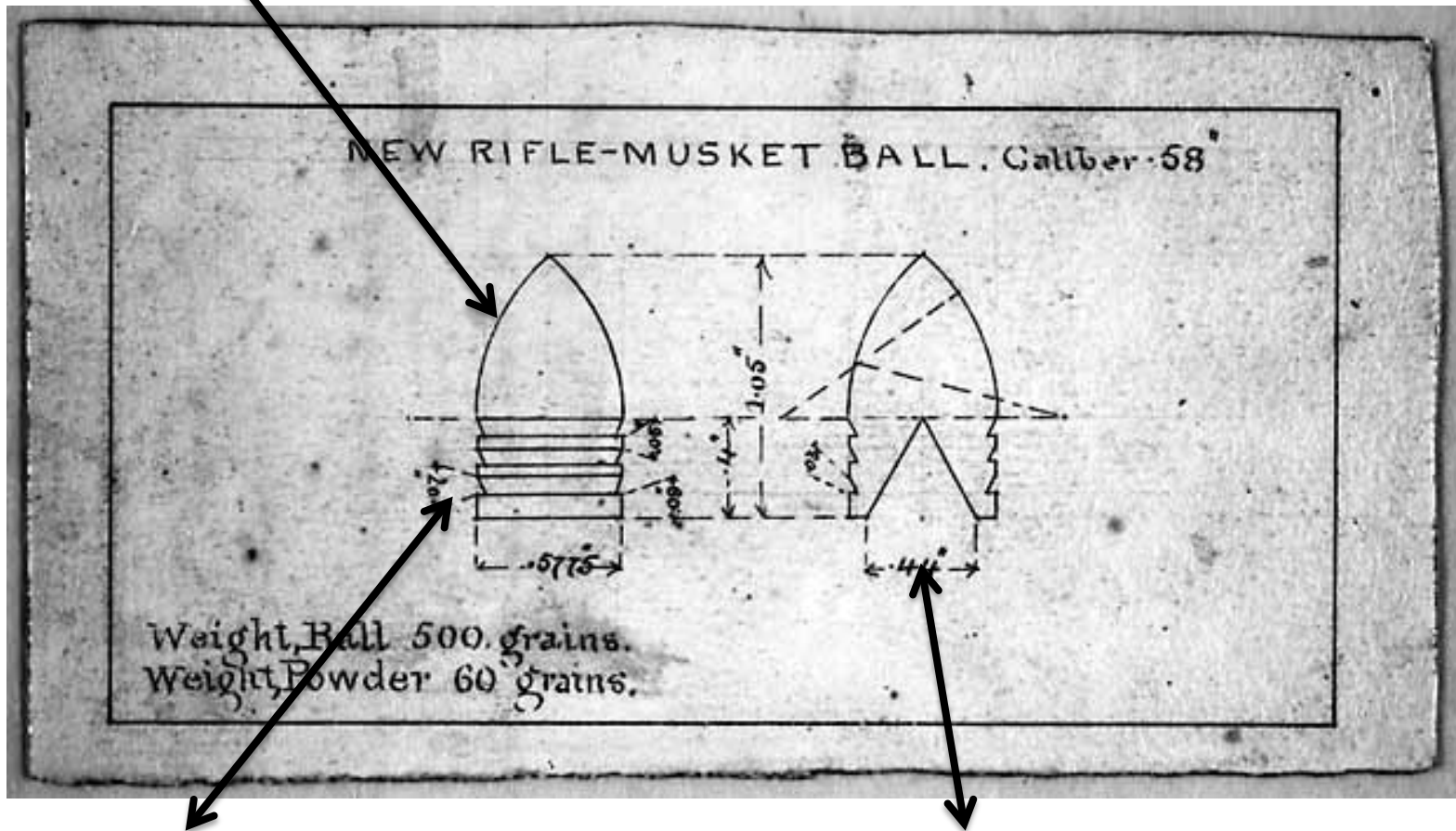


This innovation made using rifled weapons in combat more practical and vastly improved the weapon's accuracy, range, and rate of fire.

The Minie ball was smaller and therefore easier to load than previous bullets



The spiraled rifling gave a spin to the bullet.

Minie ball has a hollow base that filled with gasses when the gun discharged, forcing it to expand into the rifling of the barrel.

"New rifle musket ball caliber 0.58-inch. This final version of the Minie bullet resulted from experiments conducted by James H. Burton at the Harpers Ferry Armory during the early 1850s."

Year: 1855. Image Credit: Smithsonian Neg. No. 91-10712; Harpers Ferry NHP Cat. No. 13645.

Wagner, Margaret E., Gary W. Gallagher, and Paul Finkelman. *The Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002. 485. Print.