

Springfield Research Newsletter

ISSUE NUMBER 21
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GENERAL NOTES

This issue reports research based on the following sources:

Records of the Adjutant General Office (AGO), Volunteer Units,
War with Spain
General Correspondence of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance,
1894-1913

With this issue, we begin publication of serial number data gleaned from the records of U. S. Volunteer units serving in the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection. The work of recording and compiling this data is expected to occupy us for the rest of this year.

The data on Volunteer arms comes from the unit records (i. e., field records) turned over to the AGO following demobilization. These records in many cases show the soldier or soldiers who used a particular arm and much information on the unit's history. Because of the large quantity of data involved, it is not practical to extract all information that might be of interest, and it will be necessary to conduct further research in the original source documents in order to respond fully to requests for information on these arms. Therefore, a new price schedule has been established for serial number information requests: for the usual \$5 fee, we will furnish a letter giving the basic information on the arm (i. e., date and general usage), plus a citation of the original records in which more detailed information can be found; for a fee of \$20, we will conduct further research and furnish a letter giving all available information.

Newsletter no. 22 will have a listing of all Colt SAA revolvers on which data has been found.

SPAN-AM WAR VOLUNTEER ARMS

Our impression had been that Volunteers were generally armed with Krag rifles and carbines during the Spanish-American War, whereas State troops were armed with trapdoor weapons. The records show that the State "volunteer" units were initially armed with trapdoors (nearly all of models 1873 and 1884), but that these were for the most part replaced with Krags in late 1898 or early 1899. In many cases, these Krags were turned in prior to demobilization. In some units, it appears there was a mixture of both trapdoors and Krags; this is evidenced by an order directing soldiers going on patrol to carry 200 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition or 150 rounds of .45 caliber. Also, the trapdoor rifle was definitely used in combat in the Philippines, as well as in Cuba.



The enclosed listing contains the numbers of 935 Krags and 3,238 trapdoor arms used by the Volunteers. Among the Krag carbines issued to the 3rd Nevada Volunteer Cavalry there was 1 case of M1898 carbines. These range from 117536 to 149054, which is a much wider spread than heretofore thought appropriate for this model.

EARLY M1903 RIFLE PRODUCTION

Springfield Armory reported the following number of M1903 rifles fabricated and/or in store as of Oct. 6, 1906:

	Fabricated	In Store
Rod-Bayonet rifles, :		
M1903 sights : 74,685	43,241	:
Knife Bayonet rifles, :		
M1905 sights : 125,605	91,122	:
Totals	200,290	134,363

MORE ON POST-WWII SNIPER RIFLES

Bruce Canfield questioned several statements made about M1C and M1903A4 rifles in Newsletter no. 18, and it appears some clarifications are in order. First, readers should be aware that this is a newsletter that reports information found in Ordnance and related records and is not intended to represent expertise on the part of the Editor. Second, we have been careful to state the general source(s) of the information reported in each issue, including the time frame covered by the source documents. Third, we have still not obtained the Springfield Armory post-WWII production records so cannot say with certainty exactly what was produced during that period. The assertions made about post-WWII production of M1C and M1903A4 sniper rifles were based on modification work orders and production schedules, and it is possible that they were countermanded by verbal orders or even written orders that escaped our research efforts; but we are confident that such arms were actually produced. The M1903A4 rifles (at least 100) were produced by Springfield rather than Remington or Smith-Corona; they may have used regular M1903A3 receivers, but we have no information on this.

TRADING POST

FOR SALE OR TRADE ON COLT M1911 PISTOLS: Krag M1898 cal. .22 Gallery Practice rifle, serial no. 477178, exc. cond. David Buehn, 20142 State Rd., Cerritos, CA 90701.

WANTED: Info and documentation on Colt M1911 and 1911A1 production, cut-away sample gun, test models, variations of standard production. David Buehn, 20142 State Rd., Cerritos, CA 90701.

WANTED: Lindsey rifle tool & instruction sheet, also Sharps C. W. percussion screwdrivers. Fred B. Schultz, 2406 So. 113 Ave., Omaha, NE 68144