

# *Springfield Research Newsletter*

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## GENERAL NOTES

This issue contains data from the following sources:

Letters Received, Office of the Chief of Ordnance (OCO), 1871-1877

General Correspondence of the OCO, 1894-1913

Records of the Adjutant General Office (AGO), Volunteer Units, War with Spain

Records of the Marine Detachment in Nicaragua, 1927-32.

The data in this issue consists of more serial numbers of arms used by the U. S. Volunteer forces in the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, plus a few miscellaneous groups of serial numbers from various periods. So far, we have gone through the records of 65 of the 82 regiments which we have reason to believe contain serial number data; and we have found data for one or more companies in 38 of those. Unfortunately, it is apparent that many of the ordnance books kept at the company level have been lost or destroyed.

During the next quarter, we plan to complete our research in Span-Am War unit records and return to the Ordnance Dept. correspondence files.

In pursuit of the post-WWII production records of Springfield Armory, we have obtained copies of virtually all the correspondence covering the transfer of Springfield records to Rock Island Arsenal prior to the shutdown. One memo shows that some historical information was transferred to Watervliet Arsenal and thence to the Washington National Records Center. We hope to find those records, and if successful, we will report any significant data in them in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) has agreed to furnish serial number data on all M1 National Match rifles in their inventory, and we expect to publish that information in Issue 23 also.

The Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command has been trying since last March to locate a specific collection of records which may contain data on many of the sniper, National Match, and other special rifles produced by Springfield Armory following WWII. By the year's end, their search will have ended. If they fail to find these records, we plan to obtain copies of disposal records on the M1 National Match rifles.

## "THE SERIAL NUMBER BOOK"

Work has started on publication of a book containing all of the non-



DCM serial number data we have collected so far (about 25,000 arms). Target date for initial shipments of books is March 1, 1983. "The Serial Number Book" will illustrate each of the basic models of arms listed in it (trapdoors, Krag's, '03s, M1922s, M1s, Colt & Remington percussion revolvers, Sharps carbines, Colt SAA revolvers, and M1911 pistols). If you can furnish a good black & white photo of any of these arms, particularly one that has been listed in one of the Newsletters, please let us know and we will consider it for inclusion. Note that "the Serial Number Book will not list any of the rifles that appeared in SUMMARY OF D. C. M. RIFLE SALES.

#### KRAG DATA

This issue contains the serial numbers of 1,419 Krag rifles and carbines. The bulk of these are for Span-Am War Volunteer arms. You will note that "rifles and carbines" are listed for both the 4th and 5th USV Infantry regiments. For a short period, one or more companies from both of these regiments were equipped with horses, carbines, and other cavalry equipment. They reported having carbines with serial numbers from 113609 (probably a misreading of 118609) to 120817, which means they must have been Model 1898.

So far we have listed serial numbers for 102 of the 5,002 M1898 carbines produced, and only one of them (#126775, lost by the 8th Cavalry in 1903) was reported by a regular unit. Based on this data, it appears that many, if not most, of the M1898 carbines produced saw Volunteer usage.

#### TRAPDOOR DATA

There were a few errors in the trapdoor numbers listed in Newsletter #21. The first two numbers listed for the 1st Louisiana Vol. Infantry (21511 and 21515) should have been 215171 and 215185. Also, the listing for the 1st Nevada Vol. Infantry should have been for the 1st Nevada Vol. Cavalry. The numbers for their carbines were appended by mistake to those of rifles of the 3rd Nebraska Vol. Infantry, but they were crossed out in all copies of the Newsletter.

This issue lists another 2,865 trapdoor rifles and carbines, most of which are for Volunteer rifles. The issue of trapdoor rifles apparently ceased somewhere between the 8th and 26th USV infantry regiments. Some previously-reported arms are duplicated in the Miscellaneous listing which follows those of the Volunteer arms; most of the newly-listed numbers are those for 5th Artillery rifles.

#### COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY DATA

The last three pages of this issue list all the Colt SAA revolvers on which we have found data so far. Only one of these is a Custer gun (#5637); otherwise, the most significant numbers listed are for the 1st USV Cavalry (Rough Riders) Artillery-model revolvers.