

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

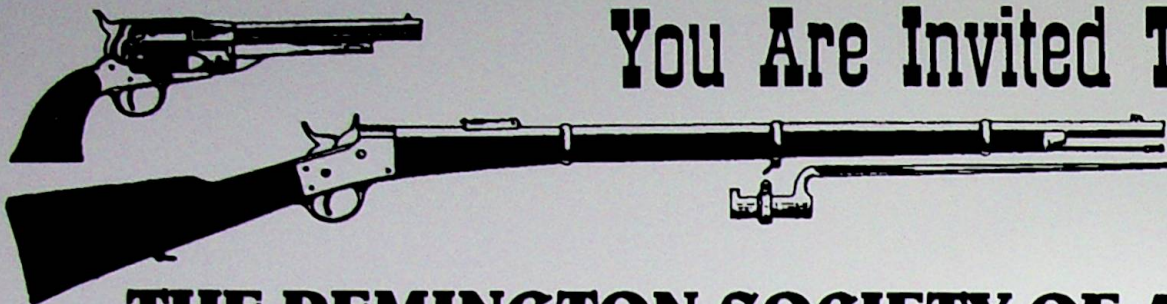
and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 94 October 2000

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STUDENT AND COLLECTOR

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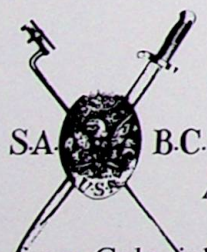
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**Cover: U.S.M.C M1903A1/Unertl
Sniper Rifle serial number 1344036,
with shipping container from
U.S.M.C. Organic Supply Barstow.
Photo courtesy Larry Reynolds.**

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 94

October 2000

- 2 MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND NOTES
- 3 LETTERS RECEIVED & SENT
- 22 U.S.M.C M1903A1/UNERTL SNIPER RIFLE
- 26 WHERE THE BUCKLE BELONGS!
- 28 GUNS "LETTERED" DURING CURRENT PERIOD

Miscellaneous News and Notes

Research During This Period

Mainly continuing through the WWI regimental records. I also made an (unsuccessful) effort to find Springfield Armory's Fiscal Year 1943 report. It has been pointed out that the "1943" report published by Brophy is actually for 1944. However, it appears that reporting requirement were suspended in 1943 due to wartime pressures; so no FY43 report was produced.

I also went through Ordnance files on Technical Committee meetings, contract listings, and issuances, finding material that will probably appear in future articles.

More USMC '03 Numbers

Next quarter, we will be adding at least 1,000 more USMC rifle numbers to the M1903 database, including all '03s on hand in the 4th Marine Regiment in 1926. I am still going through this series of records, so there is the possibility that I could find *all* interwar USMC '03 numbers, which would help immensely in validating USMC Sniper Rifles.

Updates: CD-ROM vs. Diskette

The first CD-ROM was issued in August, 1999 and was titled "1999 Edition". The second one, titled "2000 Edition", came out in August, 2000. Those who bought the 1999 edition and subscribed to updates received quarterly CDs containing *all* changes & additions to the 1999 edition; then the 2000 edition with an expiration notice. If you continue to renew your subscription, you will continue to receive annual CDs plus quarterly changes.

The diskettes are handled differently: there is no annual edition - when you subscribe, you receive diskettes containing the current databases, and updates contain only the changes to the prior quarterly diskette set.

The main reason for handling the CDs this way was to allow dealers to sell them. However, there seems to be a great deal of resistance on the part of gun book dealers to sell CDs, and so far only Dixie Gun Works is handling them. I hope this situation will change; but regardless, this procedure will continue, and I thought I should explain it for the benefit of former diskette subscribers who are now getting Cds.

New Book Martial .22 Rifles

U.S. Martial .22RF Rifles, by Thomas D. Batha, covers everything from the Remington Rolling Block conversions through Rodman and other adapters for M16 rifles and the Kimber Model 82. There is a lot of useful information in this 102 page 6x9" soft cover book, which is available for \$16.00 postpaid from the author at 75 Montgomery Street, Rouses Point NY 12979.

Contributors

Thanks to John Kudlik, Bev & Tom Lowry, and others who contributed data during this quarter.

INSPECTION CARTOUCHE STAMPING



27 STAMPS FOR THE M1
GARAND, FROM SA/SPG TO
THE DOD EAGLE, PLUS 3
SIZES OF ORDNANCE
WHEELS, CIRCLED 'P' WITH
AND WITHOUT SERIES, AND
THE DRAWING NUMBERS
FOR GAS TRAP STOCKS.

9 STAMPS FOR REMINGTON
AND SMITH-CORONA M1903,
M1903A3, AND M1903A4
RIFLES.

In Hoc Signo Caveat Emptor (submitted by Bill Hansen)

Letters Received & Sent

Three Hundres and Fifteen Trapdoor Movie Props

Today I visited a dealer in Washington that had bought some movie prop guns. I had hoped to ask him some questions about property markings of these "Movie Prop Guns." I was surprised to have him take me into a long "closet" with about 400 guns leaning against the wall and tell me to "have at it." Unfortunately, there was little room to work, no table, and it was very warm.

If only I had had an assistant, one could have read off the numbers and one could have written. I kept dropping my paper as I tried to juggle the guns and write at the same time; drops of sweat were running the ink. There were some Sharps, Rolling Blocks, and an assortment of other guns, but the majority were Trapdoor Springfields; about 315 were Trapdoors. About 50 were converted to "Arab" guns - extra-long, thin barrel extensions welded on and the butts of the stocks severely carved down to simulate Arab or Eastern Indian style. About 75 had thick solid brass barrel bands, brass frizzens and frizzen springs and a solid brass flintlock hammer and flint. When the brass hammer fell upon pull of the trigger, a nub on the inside of the hammer would strike the firing pin and fire the blank cartridge. Some of these guns were original length, and some of them were cut to "carbine" length. There were movie still photos clearly showing these guns used in the ca. 1953 John Wayne film, *The Man From The Alamo*. Some were converted to "matchlocks" with the same method of striking the firing pin. A few were altered to look like blunderbusses, some lengthened to serve as Wall Guns, and a great many were rifles cut to carbine length with the stock shortened or completely new stocks fabricated. Most of these guns looked as if they had been thrown into the back of one too many wagons. Most had the rear sights removed, all stocks were very badly battered, parts had obviously been interchanged without regard to original configuration. I thought I would be seeing 15 or 20 guns, and my purpose was to record the marking of the various prop companies. But the night before, I was skimming the back issues of the *Martial Arms Collector* (I had just purchased Issues 1

through 81). I noticed a lot of interest in the letters just in front of the receiver and in serial numbers with a star. I am sorry that I did not have the time, space, and help to carefully record the serial numbers matching the various marks. Below is a summary of the notes that I made: o Letter A (on its side, legs toward the lock). About 118 had this mark in all ranges of serial numbers. o Letter R (legs toward the receiver top; only the A was "sideways"). About 87 guns had this mark. The serial number range was about 115,000 to 445,000 but the very great majority of R-marked guns were in the 200,000 to 250,000 range. At first, I thought there were B and D marks, but they turned out to be R when checked with a magnifying glass. o Letter W, Four guns so marked were in the 294,500 to 295,000 range. o Letter T, Three guns ranging from number 5982 to 104,XXX. (obliterated). o Letter I, Thirteen guns in the 499,000 to 514,000 range. o Letter H, Gun no. 53,423 (clearly was an H) o Two guns looked like the letter might be the above-mentioned H on its side

The following serial numbers had a very clear "star" after the serial number:

150,502
177,186
181,118
182,251
187,492
187,886
189,117
208,942

Three guns were stamped MASS on top of the receiver: 63,094; 63,775; 64,629 The breechblock on gun no. 25,296 caught my attention. It was in excellent condition. The word "Model" was right up against the hinge. There was a very clear space where you would expect to see "1873" and then came the eagle, crossed pennants, and U.S. Because of the excellent condition, I would say that the date was never stamped; the big open space caught my eye immediately. I ended up buying Carbine No. 15,287 because it was stamped with the markings of three different prop companies: Selig, Columbia, and Vita (supposedly Edison-Vita-phone). It didn't hurt that it had the 1873 lockplate with

the early hammer. The stock is a cut rifle stock. In all the above-referenced quantities, I say "about" because several of the guns were rusted or painted, and I could not tell if the small letter was there or not. Also, Warner Brothers had the annoying habit of placing their large property serial number right in the space where the little letter would be; there were probably 25 to 35 Warner Bros. marked that way. About twenty or so guns had had the serial number ground off and replaced with obvious new numbers. I did find the ownership marks of about fifteen property companies. I am doing some research in this area because I figure I will be getting questions to The Powder Flask about these various markings. That is what prompted the 225 mile drive in the first place. I hope these observations will be of some use to you. When I go back and reread the Martial Collector with this experience of seeing 315 Trapdoors in one place, I am sure I will say, "Dang! If only I had read this more carefully the night before, I could have checked or verified something."

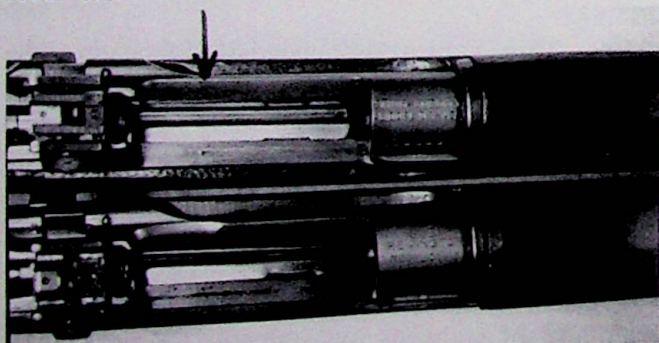
M. F. C., Oregon

Very interesting! I wonder how many of these were the work of Bob Hill?

None of the 14 numbers you mentioned appear in our Trapdoor database. I suppose that if one were a Custer gun or otherwise historically significant, it would be worthwhile restoring it to "original" condition; otherwise, they would be worth more as prop guns.

Early Smith-Corona '03-A3

Enclosed are photos of two 03-A3 Springfields in my collection. The lower one, the Remington, is just to illustrate the difference in the left-side rail of the receivers.



My understanding is that the Smith-Corona firm was assigned a block of serial numbers starting with 3 608 000, so this was the fourth or fifth gun serialized (depending on whether they started with

zero or one—reminds me of the controversy over the year 2000: last of the old century; first of the new century?).

This gun has no cut-out thumb relief in the left-side of the receiver rail. Other differences from the "norm" are the first 7/16" of the muzzle is rebated or turned down to 0.618", then the next 1/16" is 0.622", then the sight band. A bayonet fits snugly.

The only marks on the top (behind the front sight) are a very small ordnance bomb (a bit less than 1/8" in height), and a quarter inch below the bomb is a punch mark. Rotating 180° is the letter "P". I assume it is a High Standard barrel. It has six lands and grooves.

The stock seems correct: straight, with pins, Ord & FJA, Circle P, other small marks in front of trigger guard.

I send this information in case other readers want to compare low-numbered Smith-Corona guns.

M. F. C., Oregon

Thanks for the information. We don't have much on Smith-Coronas.

Sporter Barrel w/o Stargauge Mark

Was at the York PA show last weekend and picked up a mystery 1903 DCM/NRA Sporter barrel, complete with front sight base band, looking quite brand new with all the blue still on the threads. Dated 9-35, which is rather late. I have had a couple of these rifles in my time and am quite sure of what it is. There was an old tag, not Arsenal, attached saying "unused NRA Sporter barrel". Probably a prior owner's ID tag.

What is puzzling is that it is not starguage marked on the muzzle. Underneath it is stamped

G

96

P

I guess the P is just a proofmark, and the G over 96 is reminiscent of the starguage inspection marks quoted by Brophy at p. 210 of The Springfield 1903 Rifles. But I am baffled by no starguage asterisk. Could these stampings only have been put on after barrels were fitted to receivers? Would you have any clue? Or can you suggest any of our crazy collectors

whom I could pester about this?

M.K.B., New York

The muzzle on my Sporter is not marked, but I haven't looked at enough Sporter muzzles to know if this is typical.

All SA '03 service rifle barrels were star gauged, and those that fell within NM standards were marked on the muzzle with a star and the top with the stargauge data and placed in a special bin for later use on NM, SG, or ST rifles. The muzzle star helped guard against mixups as well as providing a visual indication of a special rifle (whose use was banned in certain types of Service matches).

Sporter barrels, on the other hand, have a different (heavier) contour than service rifle barrels and will not fit in a service stock without significant inletting changes; thus there was no chance of a mixup and little chance of illegal match use (barring a major effort to deceive). Hence there was no need for a muzzle star on Sporter barrels.

All Sporter barrels were star gauged; I don't know what they did with those that fell outside acceptable measurements. Probably the number of rejects was minimized by use of sharper tools and special care in boring and rifling. The "G 96" markings on the bottom of your barrel probably identify the make & lot number of the steel.

Blued '03 (Modified) Trigger Guard

The material on the Remington '03s continues to be of interest. The water is still muddy where the '03 Modifieds are concerned. I'm still trying to find out if the original '03 Modifieds had a milled guard which was blued or Parkerized. I have heard both.

G.P.L., Virginia

(Reply by William Hansen)

All the early Remington M1903 Modified rifles that I've ever seen that were original contained a parkerized finish on their milled trigger guards. This is consistent with the 10 Feb. 1941 "Material Details For US Rifle Caliber .30 M1903" submitted by the Remington Arms Co. that was approved by the Ordnance Dept. that read as follows: "D-28180 GUARD, Trigger SAEX1315 USA 57-107 Anneal for machinability. Parkerized Finish". The later ones after July 1942 that began to appear with stamped parts were all blued per the AXS-782 specification for the

impending M1903A3.

The only caveat I dare to offer is that I believe the RA also used excess RIA/SA spare parts on occasion that were also milled. However, the few guns I've seen purported to be original with non-"R" marked milled parts were also parkerized.

"71 U.S.V. N.Y." Trapdoor

On pages 3 and 4 of the July 2000, No. 93 of "U.S. Martial Arms Collector" there is a letter by T.W.J., from Georgia, concerning the marking and initials on his M/88 Springfield Trapdoor rifle.

Judging from the markings, "71 USV NY" is most likely from the 71st New York Volunteer Infantry when it was on active duty in 1898. This unit is a N.Y. National Guard regiment originally organized in New York City about 1850 or 1852. During the Civil War, the 71st was on active duty for 3 short periods of time, seeing combat at Bull Run (Manassas) in 1861.

When the 71st N.Y.N.G. was again activated in 1898, its designation was changed to 71st N.Y. Vol. Infantry. The 71st served in the Santiago Campaign in 1898. The 71st and also most other National Guard regiments were armed with .45-70 Springfields, while the Regulars had Krag's. I do not know of another 71st Regiment in the U.S. Forces at that time.

I can understand the 71st N.Y.V.I. using (incorrectly) the term "USV", since they had recently been re-designated from N.Y.N.G. to N.Y.V.I.

I have a copy of the 3-volume set of books "N.Y. in the Spanish-American War", Albany, 1900. In Volume 3 page 238 as to the possible soldier's rifle, based on his initials VH (no YH in the 71st): "HEGER, VINCENT, Age ___, Enlisted June 21, 1898, at New York City, to serve two years; Mustered in as Private, Co. A, same date; Mustered out with Company, November 15, 1898, at New York City".

R.D.S., Virginia

Thanks for the information. Other "VH" initials were found on the stock after it was cleaned up.

Sedgley Rebarreled '03s

USMAC #93 arrived today, and as usual contained interesting material. I especially enjoyed the "Sedgley" article by Clark Campbell. In follow-up to it I'm enclosing for your possible interest a print of page 52 of the April 1942 edition of the American Rifleman. As you can see, it contains a very unique

advertisement by R.F. Sedgley, Inc. providing a "re-barreling service for Military Springfields" on a limited basis. It was "...restricted to barrel assemblies, only...", and among other services included heat treatment of "Low-numbered receivers"!

Re-barreling of **MILITARY Springfields**


A special service for our sportsman friends

For a limited time, we are in a position to provide a re-barreling service for *Military Springfields*. This service must be restricted to barrel assemblies, only, which of course will include the proper fitting to receivers, checking of head-space, and proof-firing; also minor repairs or replacements of *standard sights*. Low-numbered receivers will be heat-treated, before proof-firing. Sorry, but we must limit this service entirely to *Military Springfields*; no Sporters.

Through regular-line production we will be able to furnish this service at a *reasonable cost*. We invite your inquiries.

R. F. SEDGLEY, Inc.

EST. 1997

Jay and Ontario Streets  Philadelphia, Penna.

The ad doesn't leave much doubt about the latter, and the fact that all low numbered receivers were re-heat-treated before proof firing. Since the advertisement appeared at the same time as Sedgley was doing "Uncle Sam's Sedgleys", and for certain other governments as well, it would appear they also decided to take advantage of their mobilization program to provide this same service to the general public as well.

W. H., California

M1903 Rifle No. 1000

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I recently rediscovered in my archived research files relating to Model 1903 Springfields. While it doesn't shed a whole lot of light on the subject, I know every little bit of information helps add to the collecting fraternity's knowledge, when it is deposited in the central data bank, such as yours.

John Beckwith and I operated an antique & collector arms store in Encinitas, California, from 1960 to 1985, when we retired and closed the store. John died in 1992, and I am his executor. The letter from Capt. Merrill (*below*) was retained in the store's records, although as yet I have not found a disposal form identifying the buyer of Serial Number 1000. I have moved my residence recently after 30 years and

will be reviewing boxes of the store's records, etc. Any martial arms records that I come across that I think might be of interest to you, I will send same.

E.F.C., California

2 Jan 1964

Vista, California

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

U.S. Magazine Rifle '03 (Springfield) Serial Number 1000 was located in the basement of the National Palace, Port-au-Prince, Republic of Haiti in May 1960 by the undersigned. It was retained in his possession upon return to the US in 1961. It so remained until sold to Mr. John O. Beckwith, Encinitas, California on 21 December 1963.

This rifle was located in a cache of several hundred Springfield rifles which had been in the basement for at least twenty years.

Rifle #79, located in the same area is now in the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia. These rifles along with many other low serial numbered weapons were left in Haiti by the U.S. Marines when they were withdrawn in 1934. According to information available to the undersigned in Haiti, this rifle saw useful service until the late 1930s.

(s) Will A. Merrill

Captain, U.S.M.C.

Thanks for the information on rifle no. 1000; it will be added to our database based on Capt. Merrill's affidavit.

Commenting on his letter, I don't believe the Marines ever voluntarily "left" their arms in Haiti or anywhere else. We have records showing the sale by the U.S.M.C. of '03 rifles and other arms to the Nicaraguan National Guard and Dominican Republic Police, and the same thing may have happened in Haiti.

The other rifle mentioned by Capt. Merrill, no. 79, is not listed in an inventory of '03 rifles at the USMC Field Museum Quantico taken in 1990; but possibly it was transferred to some other USMC museum.

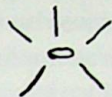
Indian-marked Trapdoor Carbine?

I have in my possession a first model U.S.

Springfield Model 1873 carbine serial number 41254.

The carbine is in original unaltered condition, and exhibits many years of hard use.

It also has a peculiar mark on the buttstock that experts in the field attribute to the Lakota people. The mark appears as follows:



Would you please check your files for any reference to the serial number on this gun.

T. P., Texas

Sorry, we have nothing on this carbine. It falls within the range of some numbers we have on 5th Cavalry carbines, but this is not very significant with trapdoor carbines.

I have seen that mark before but do not know its significance.

PART II

BIRTHING OF THE REMINGTON M1903

It is arguably impossible, in my opinion, to fully understand the Remington-made M1903 rifle series, including the enormity of evolutionary changes made over its 30-month production life, without a reasonably high-level appreciation of WW II history. "Part II" of this Narrative Overlay series on D. F. Carpenter's Notebook continues pursuit of that understanding through a study of the often trying, but fruitful partnership between the US War Department and the Remington Arms Company (RA).

Whereas the WW I Springfield M1903 naturally extended from a coherent plan begun years before, comparatively speaking, the Remington version did not. The latter began as a stopgap measure to fast-track a functional, minimum cost rifle to US Allies; then it became a critical adjunct to our own small arms deficiency. It was conceived on the premise of being able to effectively adapt moth-balled tooling born before WW I to meet circa-1940 manufacturing expectations, despite the fact that this equipment had never been capable of meeting volume production requirements. Moreover, when the original plan to make the latest version of the M1903A1 quickly unraveled, the result was a hybrid variant of its 20 year-old predecessor. And when the M1 Garand semi-auto program still failed to get up to speed fast enough, the rifle suddenly became a candidate for a completely unplanned transformation. Yes, the Remington M1903 was birthed in chaos.

In retrospect and fairness, the scenario facing

decision-makers for producing the WW II version of the M1903 was full of circumstantial incongruity, neither predictable nor self-evident early enough for any kind of serious or timely consideration of alternatives. As in any wartime situation, conditions change, and change rapidly. With no one really to blame, by the time it was recognized that the old M1903 tooling stored at Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) was not really suited to the basic task, let alone mass-produce small arms, it was too late to go back. Once RA responded to their nation's call to duty, it was as much a lost opportunity to change their mind as it was for the US to continue hanging on to the hope of WW II neutrality. They were in this together..bonded once again by mutual destiny, and for the duration of this war.

The fact of the matter is that in 1940, the US never envisioned having a need to arm more than a 4 million-man army at the very most. However, by the time the war ended in 1945, its size had exceeded 8 million. US industrial capacity was strained to its limits. When D.F. Carpenter reflected in his "Notebook" how he and his wife "*look back upon those trying days*", even their personal recall couldn't fully grasp the complete pressure-ridden disruption to their lives. In some respects, it was comparable to a bad dream. While his friends were still living relatively normal lives, he was totally caught up in the "*urgent responsibilities attendant to total warfare*". He virtually had little life beyond the business of producing rifles and ammunition for his country.

THE DIPLOMATIC TIGHTROPE

It is well to remember the situation facing the US in the last half of 1940 as alluded to in Part I. D.F. Carpenter was caught up in a storm; tossed hither and yon by the shifting winds of wartime politics, critical defense planning and world diplomacy. President Roosevelt wasn't to have the press conference announcing his "Arsenal of Democracy" plans against all aggression, including the "Lend-Lease" program to the British, until December 17, 1940. Even after that, the Lend-Lease program was not to receive congressional approval for many months. So to maintain all pretense of US neutrality, the US was walking a tight rope between a large national constituency wanting to stay out of the war altogether while defending the West, and a perceived obligation to assist our Allies at any cost. Many were worried that we had already gone too far.

By October, 1939, the Administration had already expanded the 1937 US "Protective Mobilization Plan" for exclusive homeland defense to include the entire Western

Hemisphere, all while proclaiming US neutrality. A June 30, 1940, decision by the US Army after the British evacuation at Dunkerque ushered in a much-expanded munitions program designed to equip and maintain a 1,200,000-man army. The National Guard had been inducted into Federal Service on August 27, 1940, with the "Selective Service-DRAFT" approved the following September 16th. So, it didn't look very promising to anyone objectively viewing our Government's actions that the US was either planning or expecting to avoid this war. Nevertheless, while the official posture of the US was still defensive, not offensive, the need for rifles and ammunition had unquestionably become a high priority.

THE RIA TOOLING LEASE

The dust had finally settled enough by late February, 1941, on the decision and agreement to move the M1903 equipment stored at RIA to the RA plant at Ilion, N.Y. Even so, there was still further delay in resolving final lease language issues. D.F. Carpenter was personally concerned with some of these. For example, he didn't like the fact that the lease failed to specifically allow rifles to be made for the British. On this particular matter, you almost have to wonder where Mr. Carpenter had been hiding these past months? Could he still be unaware of the US diplomatic game plan, or was he just being the consummate businessman?

He had been negotiating with the British since after the meeting in Vance's office the previous summer. A lot of things were being left to presumption, including lease of the RIA equipment, and its assumed capability of producing 1,000 rifles per day. This is another example, by the way, of the difficult predicament faced by RA in being sandwiched between the U.S. War Department and the British Purchasing Commission (BPC). Prior to execution of the RIA equipment lease with the US Government, all that D.F. Carpenter really had from the British was a "letter of intent" constituting "a firm order for the manufacture of 500,000 Caliber .30, M1903 Rifles". He had no formal contract with anyone. ...only promises; and as it turned out, he wasn't to get one from the British until June 30, 1941 -- but more on that later.

As a businessman, D.F. Carpenter had a right to be nervous. It wasn't the US War Department that was to be under direct agreement with the British. Oh no, from an international relations standpoint, that would be politically and legally unacceptable at this juncture. One cannot run a discreet neutrality program by covertly supplying war material, right? So, for the same reason

the US couldn't directly supply rifles to the British, the US lease arrangement with RA involving government-owned equipment couldn't legally promise rifles for the British in writing. That was to await the carefully crafted Lend-Lease program, which still remained a Presidential "paper tiger" at the time that RA was attempting to secure this equipment.

D.F. Carpenter was on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, he was attempting to fulfill a contractual obligation to the British to deliver rifles to them; but the lease of the US-owned equipment needed to accomplish the task wouldn't specifically allow him to make rifles for the British! Preposterous! D.F. Carpenter was no fool, and protecting RA from legal liability was part of his executive responsibilities.

Furthermore, that wasn't the only problem with the lease agreement draft presented him by the War Department. D.F. Carpenter was also extremely concerned about RA's liability exposure if the RIA equipment turned out not to be in good condition or was missing major components. He wanted more flexibility and assurances that the equipment "was adequate to produce a thousand rifles per twenty (20) hour day", a task which would later prove daunting.

It took some additional doing, but finally all these matters were resolved to his satisfaction, and a Lease Contract (W-ORD-504) dated March 4, 1941 was executed as approved by the Under Secretary of War (attachment No. 3). Curiously enough, the Lend-Lease Bill was concomitantly approved by Congress, and then became law on March 11, 1941. I doubt very much that it was entirely coincidental that history records final execution of both the formal lease agreement of the RIA equipment, and approval of the Lend-Lease Act by Congress, essentially at the same time!

It is presumed that the actual equipment lease fee covered the basic logistical package that his friend Lt. Col. Guy Drewry of the Ordnance Department had presented D.F. Carpenter in a letter dated the previous January 7, 1941. This package contained three separate lists of miscellaneous equipment in Shops B, D and F at RIA whose "total rental value" was determined to be \$182,000.

After that, it was finally "on with the production!" As RA pointed out in their book referenced in Part 1, "In Abundance and on Time", "preparations started on April 6, 1941. Hundreds of machines were removed from storage at Rock Island Arsenal, reconditioned and installed. Within 37 days of the time equipment was made available, production operations commenced". By the way, this

generally agrees with Mr. Carpenter's "Notebook" statement, "...within three weeks the first production operations were commenced".

THE RIA EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS

D.F. Carpenter tells us in his "Notebook" that almost from the moment RA took delivery of the RIA tooling, they found themselves in a "*desperate fight against time*", and "*It seemed for a while that everything went wrong*". Yes, eventually they did beat their schedule of one year for producing rifles capable of passing inspection. In fact, he actually did better than he thought he did. M1903 parts were coming off the line by May 1941, and the first 1,000 rifles were accepted by the Ordnance Department on December 20, 1941. So, it took only about 8 months, rather than the 9 months he estimated, to make the first Ordnance-approved rifle. The amazing thing is that it could have occurred even sooner, had the RA experience with the old Rock Island tooling gone better.

When the Remington delegation first toured the RIA plant on November 6 and 7, 1940, they were greatly encouraged. Even when the equipment was finally delivered, unpacked and set up in preparation for production, things initially looked very promising. The equipment was not only well preserved, but the original RIA shut-down procedure two decades before had the foresight to attach ("wired into position") all cutters, jigs, fixtures and gauges to each machine in readiness for future use. RA was greatly impressed; they even sent a thank you letter to General N.F. Ramsey of RIA on April 29, 1941 "*expressing appreciation for courtesy and cooperation in the transfer of machinery from Rock Island to Ilion and telling of the good condition of the machines*". Unfortunately, as RA was to soon find out, machinery appearing in good condition alone... does not a rifle make.

Mr. Carpenter made it a point to underscore three major problem areas RA was to immediately encounter when he cited "*obsolete machinery, the absence of accurate drawings, the inadequate tools and gauges...*". His description of these problems, in concert with what others have previously written, is well documented, so won't be extensively elaborated on at this time. But some additional background might help clarify why these problems were so aggravated, as well as unmask the real reasons they occurred.

Absence of Component Drawings

When Carpenter learned that RA "...couldn't find the component drawings which showed the dimensions of the parts and tolerances of those dimensions", it probably confirmed his worst fears. But the reason they couldn't be found

is likely because they never really existed, at least not in the form of the detailed component drawings comparable to the ones recently supplied by Springfield Armory (SA) under Ordnance instruction.

Phil Sharpe in his book, "The Rifle in America" makes it abundantly clear the "*absence of accurate drawing*" problem began back during the WW I era. He had learned "*there was almost a total lack of suitable working drawings, so that it was impractical in World War I to attempt to tool up manufacturers for production of this rifle*" (emphasis added). Obviously, if such drawings were not suitably available to the civilian arms industry then, what were the chances they might still be around 20 years later?

Also, RIA didn't necessarily do things the way SA did them. RIA had adopted a number of changes in the use of raw materials and shop practices that were unique to their operation. Also, the two armories were "*in constant disagreement on many points involved in the manufacture of this rifle*", even though there was a reasonable degree of interchangeability of most parts. Phil Sharpe goes on to explain that after WW I, there was an effort made "*to standardize drawings and manufacturing plans, but this effort was sadly abortive*". Even during WW I, the Engineering Division of the Ordnance Department attempted to "...standardize manufacturing practice. The problem became too involved, so this Division merely served as an intermediary to achieve suitable compromise between the two Government-operated manufacturing arsenals".

You can imagine what RA was confronted with, since all currently available M1903 specifications, standards and drawings received from the Ordnance Department not only came from the Springfield Armory, but had generally been updated to 1936 practices, and in some cases 1940!

As a practical matter, then, the principal challenge throughout the period from RA startup to the end of 1941 was one of reconciling antiquated, low volume production equipment from primarily one Government Armory, including fixtures, jigs, gauges and procedures, to the current M1903A1 component drawing dimensions, tolerances, methods, and procedures promulgated by a different Armory. C.A.S. Howlet, in his June 1945 writing of "History of U.S. Rifle Caliber .30 M1903" expressed it as well as can be, albeit mildly, when stating that the manufacturer "...*found it difficult... to manufacture the finished components to the required dimensions shown on the revised drawings*" (emphasis added). To say the least, RA had an inherent contradiction on their hands. The fact that the equipment

was worn and obsolete insofar as it may not have been capable of holding to tolerance requirements of either the old or current drawing standards only compounded the problem.

Inadequate Gauges

Without either the ability to precisely follow the current SA component drawings or to obtain accurate drawings specifically for the RIA M1903 version, RA soon discovered they would have to rely heavily on the actual gauges attached to the various tools for component dimensional and tolerance accuracy. Remember, D.F. Carpenter had said in his "Notebook" that: *"The only way we could establish those dimensions was to measure the gages..."*. But apparently that proved equally as frustrating. Within the first month after setting up the RIA equipment, the RA Plant Manager, G. O. Clifford complained to his boss, A.E. Buchanan, in a memo dated May 23, 1941 that "our experience to date indicates that the weakest part of the whole setup... is the gages. Not only are the records sadly incomplete, but the gages themselves in many cases do not serve satisfactorily the purpose for which they were apparently intended; do not provide any limits of accuracy; are missing important gauging points; are made to wrong dimensions, or otherwise inadequate for our use". The worst had been finally realized. There was no possible way RA could make either the M1903A1 or the original rifle produced by the leased equipment. At best, this rifle would necessarily become a hybrid!

D.F. Carpenter was absolutely right when he accurately recalled in writing his "Notebook" that "It was obvious we would have to do a simultaneous design job along with the production operations, and hope for the best... trusting the experience of our designers and engineers to bring them through to assembly in a form that would work". He went on to say, "It was a daring undertaking, but it worked". Yes, it worked, but not without an immense delay-causing price payable in added tooling analysis and retrofit engineering and development.

But the gauge problems weren't over yet. When October 1941 finally rolled around, and after amazing success in assimilating the RIA equipment, RA was finally ready for their first finished rifle inspection. At this time, the Rochester Ordnance District (ROD) was still in the process of mobilizing for US take-over of the British contract, which technically occurred the month before. Also, RA was still adjusting to a new contract administration protocol and agency relationship with the ROD.

As preparations were made for the first Ordnance inspection, it was discovered that there were no final inspection gauges among the gauges shipped from RIA. In fact, there was "...no gage list or gage drawings of inspection gages for the 1903 rifle..." that accompanied the tooling! Was this another RIA practice aberration? Indeed, it was ultimately learned **"... that Rock Island Arsenal did not require any inspection gages in their production"** at all (emphasis added)! (See attachment Nos. 4 & 5)

Needless to say, ROD informed RA that final inspection gauges are a requirement of the "...present Ordnance Inspection Gage Practice". And naturally ROD, having no authority to grant an exception, sought counsel from their Washington headquarters. Now what? You can almost hear D.F. Carpenter's frustration echoing across the pages of history.

Attachment No 4 is a letter from the Ordnance Department dated October 16, 1941, which responds to ROD's request for direction. The letter is self explanatory, but it is interesting to note that the Office of the Chief of Ordnance was likewise dumbfounded by this problem. They really offered no solution, only suggestions to be explored at this time. For example, they observed, **"Springfield Armory has gages for the 1903 Rifle in storage that are not applicable to past production at either Springfield Armory or Rock Island Arsenal"** (emphasis added); then they implied that ROD may want to somehow make them work anyway through selective experimentation. Other suggestions included establishing a gage laboratory at RA and assigning a "gage checker to duty at Remington..."

Eventually, the US War Department had to capitulate on this issue, or face a definite delay in meeting rifle delivery commitments to the British. As an interim solution, it was decided to develop a special set of final inspection instructions for the initial production output "...without inspection gages..."! The decision was made and applied to approximately the first 60,000 rifles made by RA before inspection gauges finally became available.

Is it any wonder that D.F. Carpenter said in his "Notebook" that the job was "one which any production engineer would have called impossible unless it were completely reprocessed and retooled from the bottom up"? It won't be discussed at this time, but RA would learn later when the production volume requisites of the War Department were tripled, that there would be a huge problem due to functional obsolescence of this equipment also. Simply said, the equipment they were now counting on to carry them through this contract was never designed

to mass-produce high volume components with precision!

Dispelling a Myth...One of Many

In reading most published material on the Remington '03, it is very difficult to come away with an objective, comprehensive appreciation that accurately and fairly explains why the RIA equipment lease became so problematic, particularly when it comes to rightly assigning blame...if to anyone. What is most troubling to this author is the impression often left that somehow RA just muddled through; that their own ineptness was largely responsible for any birthing pain in delivering the first M1903 rifles. In other words, they simply didn't have the competency level or "touch" to work the old RIA equipment as well as had their WW I-era predecessors. The subtle implication is that "worn and inadequate equipment" complaints often became an excusable subterfuge for being granted a lot of generous concessions by the Ordnance Department in the area of quality control.

In my opinion, the foregoing is nonsense and couldn't be farther from the truth! It is pure myth arising out of perpetuated incomplete information and half-truths. The fact is that RA was largely handed a "pig in a poke" when they took over the as-is state of the RIA equipment, a condition Mr. Carpenter very definitely sensed when contemplating the RIA lease language 9 months previous. Yes, RA experienced the normal learning curve in overcoming unfamiliarity with the tooling. But the truth is they mastered it far more quickly than perhaps anyone else ever could have! Furthermore, they produced an exceptionally accurate rifle the British were very well pleased with, though not in their preferred .303 caliber.

While perhaps unfair 60 years later to assign culpability to anyone, the so-called RIA equipment problem was far more attributable, in my opinion, to failure by the US government to properly provide everything RA was to need and know, e.g., a complete manufacturing package that included assurances of total systemic workability compatible with current Ordnance inspection practices. Where the government fails the credibility test, in my opinion, is without full pre-contract disclosure, they imposed component drawings on RA dissimilar with the tooling and production gages for making a product this equipment had never before seen; then they compounded it all by applying inspection standards the finished product had also never seen before!

Think about it. It was simply not realistic to expect to make a Model 1903A1 to 1940 specifications with equipment not used since 1919. The enterprise had little

choice except to go back and change all current drawings to better suit the capabilities of the actual tooling being used, then selectively integrate upgrade decisions that were relatively equipment-neutral. So before the first completed rifles were to see the light of day with formal acceptance in December, 1941, "600 changes in drawings were necessary in order to make the machine tools and gages... conform with the drawing and specification of the rifle". And it didn't stop there, but for purposes of this writing, you get the idea.

Can anyone honestly say this was RA ineptness? I hope not. The reality is, in their anxiety to find a quick fix to the rifle shortage problem, the War Department had not really thoroughly evaluated the technical and functional feasibility of resurrecting this old equipment with appropriate consideration given to current standards and quality control practices. And this is without saying anything about overzealous government inspectors having little appreciation for the complexities of applying new standards to old products; or the unbelievably bureaucratic process installed by the Ordnance Department for checks and balances, information flow, decision-making control, etc. Hopefully, this can be discussed further in the next Part III.

In retrospect, historians may wonder about the wisdom of the original decision to use the old RIA equipment in the first place. But in deference to fairness and 20-20 hindsight, this contract was originally perceived as a one-time, relatively short term expediency measure. No one had any idea in 1940 what would ultimately be asked of this equipment within just a few years. It was a hectic and desperate time, a time with which second-guessers can have a field day. Should they? Beyond mere understanding of facts and honest attempts to learn from the past, I think not.

THE FRANK MALLORY QUESTIONS

Before going on, this is probably a good time to respond to the two excellent questions posed by Frank Mallory in his opening comments in USMAC #92, page 92-2. The first question dealt with whether or not any Remington '03s was supplied directly to the British under the RA-BPC contract? The answer to that is a qualified NO!

All Remington M1903 rifles received by the UK (...reported to be 64,003) ultimately came through the Lend-Lease Program, the first 2,000 of which were shipped on or by January 10, 1942. However, as part of their contractual arrangement and paid for by the BPC, RA did manufacture

four prototype M1903 rifles modified to the British .303 caliber. These rifles were designed and tested in parallel with the ongoing production of the M1903 to US standards, and pursuant to the possibility that the US War Department might eventually consent to either a changeover to the Lee-Enfield, or allow RA to make a .303 caliber version of the Springfield M1903.

In a letter dated May 28, 1941, from D.F. Carpenter to W.E. Leigh of the BPC (Note: This gentleman is presumed not to be one and the same as Sir Walter Leighton, Winston Churchill's emissary at the "Vance" meeting), RA informed the British that the modified caliber .303 Springfield rifle would be ready for their examination on about June 4, 1941 (see attachment No. 6). Then in an "Inspectional Progress Report" dated September 13, 1941, the BPC reported that the four rifles had been "dispatched to various centers for extended trials", and that the preliminary tests have "proved very successful".

These four experimental prototypes were to be the only rifles that would ever be made under the British contract and delivered directly to the British! The US Ordnance Department had already begun negotiating with RA the previous July to take over the contract, after having been allocated \$10.4 million to cover the first 208,000 rifles of the original 500,000 British order. By the way, that works out to exactly \$50.00 each. And then on September 17, 1941, just a few days after the foregoing referenced "progress report", the British contract with RA was essentially terminated (e.g. subordinated to US takeover).

In disclosing the foregoing, let it also be said that the British never really gave up their quest for either their "Lee-Enfield" or the M1903 modified to .303 caliber. D.F. Carpenter said, "It was very difficult for officials of the British Government to understand, and they became very insistent". He was being kind with this understatement.

The British not only proved stubborn, they put forth an incredible effort with their persistent lobbying. As an example, RA had no more than installed the RIA equipment at their Ilion, N.Y. plant in April 1941, when the BPC came at them. They had performed a detailed study entitled the "Comparison of Manufacture between Springfield and Lee-Enfield Rifles", the summary of which was a 5-page document dated April 25, 1941, and released strategically to both the US War Department and RA. It was a comparable data message, and based principally on the BPC's Savage (Stevens Arms Co.) experience with making the Lee-Enfield at Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts.

The conclusion? Obviously, there was no reason RA couldn't beat former preliminary cost and production estimates, thus bringing the Ilion plant into full-scale operation for making the Lee-Enfield in preference to the Springfield.

By now this was a sensitive political issue, and Mr. Carpenter decided he wasn't going to handle this alone. He was somewhat frustrated anyway with the British at this point, in my opinion. He had told the Ordnance Department in early December of the previous year "our negotiations with the British... appear to be nearing completion". As it turned out, however, it would be another 6 months before he would have a formal contract. The British had their own frustrations to deal with, of course, and were not exempt from using any advantage possible for negotiating leverage. The only real assurances Carpenter had during the interim was the "cash and carry" arrangement of the "letter agreement", along with some strong hints from the US War Department that these issues would be resolved soon (e.g., Lend-Lease).

Finally, after collaborating with his friends in the Ordnance Department, Mr. Carpenter made the situation clear to the British, hopefully once and for all (again see Attachment No 6). In his response, he basically said that converting the RA plant at Ilion over to the Lee-Enfield would cost more money and "result in a permanent loss of production". Then he cut right to the core! He told the BPC that "the undertakings which our company has assumed in the interest of National Defense have been so great and a changeover to Enfield Rifle manufacture would involve such serious production and management responsibilities with disruption to operations, that we cannot comply with your renewed request to abandon manufacture of caliber .30 Springfield rifles". He goes on to tell them that in spite of RA's development and soon to be ready examination of the four .303 Springfield trial rifles, there was no way there would be a changeover "if it is not approved by the United States Government".

Effectively, this letter from D.F. Carpenter would finally end the more bold efforts by the British to have RA build a small arm to fire the .303 cartridge, even though development of the modified M1903 prototype in .303 caliber would continue on into June. With nothing further to gain, a formal British Contract (A-2773) dated June 30, 1941, superseded the informal "letter agreement", and RA proceeded with making the M1903 in .30-06 caliber.

The second question Frank Mallory asks wonders if any of the rifles received by the British contained marks

other than standard US markings? The answer to that question is NO again. But, it likely would have happened if D. F. Carpenter had his way!

In a memo from RA to the Chief of Ordnance dated August 13, 1941, RA sought confirmation of a verbal understanding between Mr. Carpenter and Col. Drewry "...that the markings furnished by the British will be satisfactory until a changeover to US markings can be made without causing delay in manufacture" (emphasis added—see attachment No. 7). By this time, the British were resigned to the inevitability of being provided the M1903 in .30-06 caliber through the Lend-Lease Program. In their resignation, they had now become anxious and were pushing vigorously to avoid further delay or interruption of the RA production process. It did not appear promising in their view that the ROD would be able to engage a timely contract takeover; and any stoppage for formal substitution of US specifications, including markings and identification on all rifles then in the production pipeline, was considered at this late date to be unnecessary! Remember, the US Ordnance Department was not to formally take over the British contract with RA until after September 17, 1941. Even Carpenter and Col. Drewry saw no particular problem with this, since the first rifles made were going to Britain anyway. However, that was not the way it was going to be!

The very next day, in an extraordinarily sternly worded letter from the Assistant Chief of Ordnance, Lt. Col. Rene R. Studler to the UK Inspection Board dated August 14, 1941, the British were unceremoniously reminded that "If and when a Defense aid contract is placed with Remington" (emphasis added) for these rifles, all material provided will be "...standard US items, including spare parts and accessories..." (See attachment No. 8). Furthermore, in using yet another "if and when" zinger, only this time clearly aimed at Carpenter and Drewry, he admonished all parties to the M1903 Program that if there were any questions by anyone regarding drawings and inspection standards, they should be referred appropriately through US War Department channels for decision.

Lt. Col. Studler's letter deeply touched the sensitivities of RA, in my opinion. It was to even come out in D.F. Carpenter personally while writing his "Notebook" years later, when he said in reference to the US Government taking over the British contract "...and proceeded to apply standard US Specifications. Of course, these wouldn't apply to the product as it was then made and being accepted by the British, for neither we nor the British had ever

intended to duplicate US Specs..." Naivete? Still justifying original beliefs? Again, one has to wonder about how well Mr. Carpenter had been internalizing US policy and actions at this particular time? Had the US mind-set and game plan still escaped him? If so, Studler settled it — there was to be no compromising of standard US protocol for arms production for any reason, including delay avoidance.

Now that the British had lost all chances of getting a .303 caliber rifle from Remington, they could only exhort all who would listen to get on with production and shipment to the UK of the M1903 in .30-06 caliber. Shortly thereafter (September 3, 1941), the office of the Chief of Ordnance authorized ROD, as the impending contract agency representing the War Department, to direct RA on the method and manner of US markings to appear on the rifle.

No Remington M1903 rifles were ever to be made according to exclusive British specifications that were not also approved for US use; nor other than the aforementioned four prototypes, would any M1903 rifles ever carry British markings of any kind. Even the British themselves conceded the point in the foregoing referenced September 13, 1941, "Inspectional Progress Report" prepared by W/Cdr. A. J. Richardson, Assistant Director, Small Arms of the BPC, when he acknowledged that "the question... of using British view marks and numbering system, etc. has been dropped" (emphasis added).

In closing this Part, it is noted that in contrast with the Remington M1903 program, all seemed to be going fairly well with the parallel manufacturing effort between the British and the Savage Arms Company for production of their beloved SMLE. After all, the British were getting exactly what they wanted. The question must be asked then, was this helpful in taking British pressure off RA? Of course it was. But, some historians have recorded that it was just a fortuitous event. I think not! In my opinion, it is another story also not devoid of War Department politics and influence, but another story for another time. ♠ - William Hansen

TRADING POST

The Trading Post is for non-commercial users only. There is no charge for ads, but they are run on a space-available basis.

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March 10, 41

COMMANDING GENERAL
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

LM/vlp

LEASE CONTRACT W-ORD-504 WITH REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.
FOR LEASE OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES FOR M1903 RIFLE APPROVED
BY UNDER SECRETARY AND PERFORMANCE BOND APPROVED BY JUDGE
ADVOCATE GENERAL TODAY. COPY OF LEASE BEING FORWARDED YOU.
YOU MAY RELEASE THESE FACILITIES TO REMINGTON WHEN READY
FOR SHIPMENT TO THEIR PLANT AT ILION, NEW YORK.

O.C. 160/5465-Remington Arms Co.

WESSON.

7/19/03
K-1a Pls. T

A.H. Moran, Chief, Legal Sec.

H. Shaler, Major

NONE

15842

Attachment No. 3

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE

WASHINGTON

Darnedy/db

U.S. WAR DEPT.

PROMPT ATTENTION
PLYING REFER TO

NO.

ATTENTION OF

Ind. Serv., Res. & Engr.
Gage Section

October 16, 1941

Subject: Gages for Cal..30 1903 Rifle Remington Arms Co., Milten,
New York

To: Rochester Ordnance District
1238 Mercantile Building
Rochester, New York

1. Attention is invited to the inclosed copy of File C.O. 474.1/284. The subject gages shipped from Rock Island Arsenal are not final inspection gages from the viewpoint of present Ordnance Inspection Gage Practice. Since no gage list or gage drawings of inspection gages for the 1903 Rifle are available the Rochester District has a very difficult and responsible assignment in segregating, selecting, and modifying the subject gages to provide for inspection at Remington. Springfield Armory has gages for the 1903 Rifle in storage that are not applicable to past production at either Springfield Armory or Rock Island Arsenal. Some of these gages may after setting and/or modification be usable for inspection at Remington, and they are available to this District upon requisition to this office. The selection of gages, their use and surveillance will probably have to be by coordination of gage record cards with component drawings as it would not be feasible to prepare inspection gage drawings at this time.

2. In view of the gage situation at Remington, the following is suggested for consideration:

- (a) Establishment of a sub-gage laboratory at Remington.
- (b) Assigning a gage checker to duty at Remington until sufficient applicable gages have been selected to cover inspection requirements. This gage checker to visit Springfield Armory when necessary to obtain the experience and guidance required for setting the 1903 Rifle.

3. This office should be advised as to the plans of the Rochester District for the segregation, selection, surveillance, and modification of the available gages for the 1903 Rifle to provide for inspection at Remington.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance:

1 Incl.
Copy of letter & Inds.

M. R. HANBLETON
Lt. Col., Ordnance Dept.
Assistant

Attachment No. 4

Burnell/gr

November 29, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR: Files

SUBJECT: Production of Rifle U. S., Cal..30, M1903
at Remington Arms, Ilion, New York

.....

1. In a conference between Lt. Castle of Rochester Ordnance District and Mr. D. Burnell of this office on November 27, 1941, the following points were discussed concerning the production of the Rifle, U. S., Cal..30, M1903, at Remington Arms Company, Ilion, N.Y.:

(a) Items: The Ilion plant, besides the production of Rifles, has orders for Lee Enfield Extractors, Cal..22, Target Rifles, 12 Ga., Shotguns, Barrels for Thompson Sub-Machine Guns (sub-contract with Auto Ordnance), and various miscellaneous spare parts.

(b) Amount Produced: Last week (the week of Nov. 17, 1941), Remington produced 150 rifles per day, which as yet have not been accepted. Acceptance has not taken place due to the fact that there have been 600 changes in drawings and specifications. The maximum rate will be 1,000/day, 5.5 day week.

(c) Drawings & Specifications: 600 changes in drawings were necessary in order to make the machine tools and gages, which were received from Rock Island Arsenal (the machine tools and gages having been used in the last war, for the production of the subject rifles at Rock Island Arsenal) conform with the drawing and specification of the rifle.

(d) Inspection: Inspection of the rifles will be difficult due to the fact that Rock Island Arsenal did not require any inspection gages in their production. Therefore, since the Engineering Section has given permission and instructions on the inspection rifles without inspection gages, it is estimated that 50,000 rifles will be inspected before suitable inspection gages will be available.

(e) Spare Parts: Due to the changes in drawings and specifications, the Spare Parts for this rifle will be interchangeable with the Rifle, U.S., Cal..30, M1903A1. It is noted here, that this fact being so, Remington Arms Company will be a future source for Spare Parts, Rifle, U.S., Cal..30, M1903A1.

Attachment No. 5

Memo. for files (cont'd.) 11/29/41

(f) Choke Points: A report, which Mr. Clifford, Plant Manager, is making on necessary machine tool augmentation to relieve bottlenecks, will take care of this situation.

(g) Labor: Personnel employed at the plant is about 2,000 and will increase to about 2,400. Working time: 20 hour day, 4/5 day week. There are two shifts per day, the day shift being longer than the night shift.

1.5

NOV 29 1941
MID 735003

Remington
DUPONT

Genl Engrs. T. Harris, Jr.

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

MANUFACTURERS OF
SPORTING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION
TRAPS TARGETS



BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

May 28, 1941

Mr. W. E. Leigh,
British Purchasing Commission,
15 Broad Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Confirming briefly our conversation of this morning, it is my understanding that although you feel our figures submitted to you in our letter of May 26 may be conservative, it is impossible at this time to determine them much more accurately and you are satisfied that they are substantially correct.

We discussed the possibility that in the event more new machines were purchased (possibly 200 rather than 77) duplicate machining facilities might be set up in order that Enfield parts could be run through operations before the lots of Springfield parts had been completed. This would require additional building construction, power facilities, etc. which are entirely indeterminate at this time. The cost of such an installation, if it proved to be necessary and practical, might be a million dollars or more.

These additional facilities would make it possible to make deliveries of Enfield rifles more promptly than we indicated in our letter of May 26. However, they would not increase the theoretical capacity of the plant, or bring the plant into full scale operation more promptly than we indicated to you. The gain might very roughly be on the order of perhaps 20,000 additional Enfield rifles which would have been produced by September 30, 1942 and whereas we previously indicated that a change to the Enfield

Attachment No. 6

5/28/41.

production would result in a permanent loss of production of approximately 79,000 rifles, this figure might be reduced to approximately 60,000 rifles.

We are proceeding immediately with minor modifications of the model of the modified caliber .303 Springfield rifle which we hope will be ready for examination Wednesday afternoon, June 4.

We re-stated our position that the undertakings which our company has assumed in the interest of National Defense have been so great and a changeover to Enfield rifle manufacture would involve such serious production and management responsibilities with disruption to operations that we cannot comply with your renewed request to abandon the manufacture of caliber .30 Springfield rifles. We advised you, however, that we would, if you find it necessary and if it is approved by the United States Government, undertake to change over our operations to the modified caliber .303 - Springfield rifle.

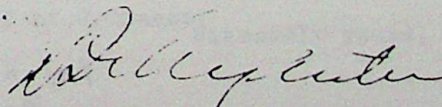
We pointed out again that our authorizations to continue manufacture expire June 9 and therefore to assure continuance in the manufacture we would have to have immediate action on the contract which was submitted to you in its most recent form on April 17.

We emphasized that we must have immediate decisions on this contract in order that the progress of production might not be delayed. Further, that we would have to have immediate decision on any change to the modified .303 Springfield if this model were decided upon.

We stated that in the event the contract should be executed calling for Springfield rifles and subsequent thereto the British Purchasing Commission finds it necessary to change to the modified caliber .303 Springfield and if this change is approved by the United States Government we would undertake to make this change in the contract, but unless this decision is made promptly, it will adversely affect operations.

A copy of this letter is being transmitted to General Charles T. Harris, Jr. of the United States Ordnance Department.

Very truly yours,



Vice President and
Director of Manufacture

DFCarpenter.LC

COPY

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

August 13, 1941

(O.O. 400.3295/18209, England)

SUBJECT: CONTRACT FOR CALIBER .30 MODEL 1903 RIFLES

Office of Chief of Ordnance
Small Arms Division
4th & C Sts., S.W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Col. G. H. Drewry

Gentlemen:

It is understood that our present contract with the British Purchasing Commission for caliber .30 Model 1903 Rifles will be taken over shortly by the U. S. Government.

Accordingly, our specifications are being revised to delete all references to the British requirements and these specifications will be forwarded for your consideration at an early date.

While the U. S. drawings indicate the markings to be placed on the rifles, our factory at Ilion will need information as to serial numbers or other special markings which you may require. It is understood from telephone conversations between Col. Drewry and Mr. W. F. Carpenter of this Company, that the markings furnished by the British will be satisfactory until a change over to U.S. markings can be made without causing delay in manufacture. It is requested that this understanding be confirmed in reply to this communication.

Very truly yours,

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

/s/ W. L. Clay
W. L. Clay

WLC:VPD

Attachment No. 7

TO INSURE PROMPT ATTENTION
IN REPLYING REFER TO

NO. _____
ATTENTION OF _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
WASHINGTON

HRS:rbh

August 14, 1941

O.O. WAR DEPT.
460.3495
17100
19 AUG 15 1941

Colonel E. M. Banford
Inspection Board of United Kingdom and Canada
Directorate of Small Arms and Ammunition
1800 K Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Banford:

In your letter of August 13, 1941, you raised questions of general policy in connection with the proposed manufacture of the U. S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1903, at the Remington-Union Plant.

If and when a Defense Aid contract is placed with Remington for these rifles the general policy involved will be that stated in a letter of June 19, 1941, signed by Colonel Quinton, the final paragraph of which I quote below:

"U. S. Standard Material. Inspection under Defense Aid contracts for U. S. standard material will not differ in any way from that currently in effect on regular Ordnance contracts."

The material to be produced under the proposed contract will be standard U. S. items including spare parts and accessories shown on approved lists with such deletions of spare parts and accessories as may be desired by the British Purchasing Commission. Copies of these lists together with all applicable drawings have been furnished the British Purchasing Commission.

If and when the contract is placed all questions raised by the contractor with respect to drawings and to inspection standards should, of course, be transmitted by the contractor to the Contracting Officer who in this case would be the Rochester Ordnance District. The Contracting Officer would, in turn, refer appropriate questions to the Ordnance Office for decision.

For the Chief of Ordnance:

Sincerely yours,

SMALL ARMS DIVISION
INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

RENE' R. STULLER,
Lt. Colonel, Ordnance Dept.
Assistant.

Attachment No. 8

COLLECTORS NOTES

U.S.M.C. M1903A1/UNERTL SNIPER RIFLE

BY LARRY REYNOLDS

At the risk of upsetting a few collectors and personal friends, I have decided to release a little information on the highly collectable and very rare Springfield variation known as the U.S.M.C. 1903A1/Unertl Sniper Rifle.

Much has been written recently about this very historic rifle by noted authors such as Peter Senich and a few others, but that information concerns mostly the usage of the rifle in combat and a few pictures of existing specimens. Nothing has been written on the basic makeup of the rifle itself.

These rifles are very valuable and have been the subject of outright fakery and deception. Any nice 1903A1 Springfield, with the help of a competent gunsmith, a few early parts such as the WW2 issue Unertl scope bases that are still floating around on Ebay and in small parts boxes at gun shows, can be made into a respectably accurate copy of a genuine U.S.M.C. Sniper Rifle. What with the number of genuine Unertl U.S.M.C. Sniper Scopes around, it is not that hard to attach one to a faked rifle and call it the real thing and make a lot of money while you are at it.

I have compiled a list of Marine Sniper Rifles over the years and have 42 rifles listed. Of these 42 rifles, I have seen U.S.M.C. documentation on only one rifle, # 1344XXX. Three other rifles, # 9916XX, # 1497XXX, and # 1526XXX, are still owned by the original purchasers who bought their rifles directly from Organic Sales U.S.M.C. for the sum of \$25 in the Fall of 1954. Original paperwork on these rifles has been lost over the years. Some of the rifles on my list are in U.S.M.C. Museums; and some of the rifles have, according to the present owners, official documentation, although I have never been afforded the opportunity to view such evidence. This in itself is a very good idea, as the number of faked Marine Snipers most certainly outweighs the number of real ones; and documents may be forged easier than the rifle itself. Only a very chosen few have official documents and know what they look like. I have shown my documentation papers to but a very few close friends who are collectors and students of the Marine Sniper. Mr. Frank Mallory has a copy of my documents

as proof of originality so that my rifle may be listed in his next volume of Springfield Research Service, Serial Numbers of U.S. Martial Arms.

Most of the rifles that I have observed have been made up from 1903A1 NM rifles that were supplied to the Marine Corps for their shooting teams directly from Springfield Armory. Not all Sniper Rifles were built from NM Rifles, or 1903A1 rifles either, for that matter. There is evidence that some were built using the standard Type "S" finger groove stock. The Marines, it seems, never did get accustomed to the Type "C" pistol grip stocks. Many team members opted for the finger groove "S" stock on their target rifle, as they were very familiar with the same type stock as used on their main battle rifle.

I will try to list all the characteristics of known genuine Marine issue Sniper Rifles from my observations and that of fellow collectors, so that we may be of service to the new collector and those that are considering purchasing these rare and unique rifles.

SERIAL NUMBER RANGE: # 900,000 to # 1,532,000.

RECEIVER

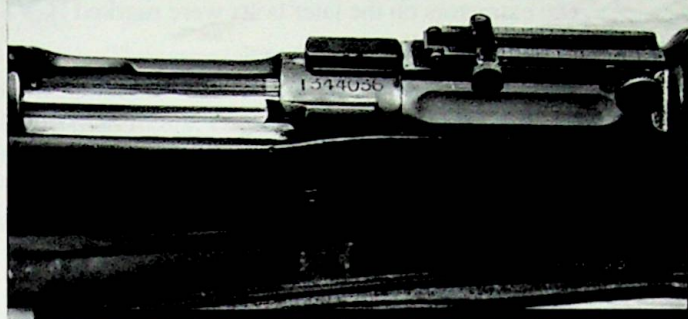
Early rifles until 1936 will exhibit the additional gas port on left, as recommended by General Hatcher. I believe this to be a U.S.M.C. modification.



Shows added large gas escape hole and small hole in Unertl scope block.

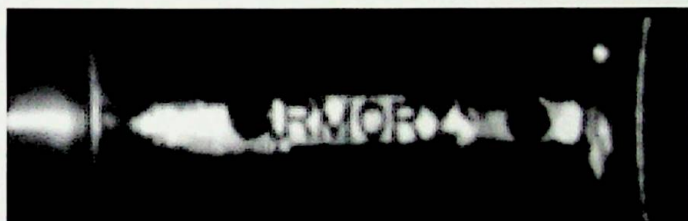
The rails on almost all rifles were polished as were the NM Rifles. One observed rifle did not have polished rails, and the bolt was not polished either.

The rear Unertl scope block was centered and butted up against the back of the rear sight.



Shows correct mounting of rear block, receiver filing marks, polished receiver rails, and handguard with straight windage knob cut/

The top of the receiver was ground to bare metal where the holes were drilled, and you can still see part of this grinding when the block is installed.



Grinding or filing on top of receiver where rear block holes were drilled.

BARREL

Most books on the subject of the Marine Snipers will tell you that the barrels were all star gauged, but that is simply not true. Most of the rifles with their original barrels were star gauged and marked accordingly, but there are reworked rifles with standard grade barrels installed. The Marines had the capability of doing their own star gauging, and they did so as a matter of course.

One thing to look for on a genuine Marine Sniper rifle barrel is a punch mark at 6 o'clock, directly under the front block. This is supposed to be some kind of locator for correct positioning of the front scope block. Every rifle I examined that had its original barrel, bore this mark. Rifle # 1344Xxx, a re-barrel, did not have the mark.

STOCK

The stocks on these rifles varied from type "S", to scant "C", to pre-war Type "C". Rifle # 1497XXX, purchased

"as is" from Organic Sales at Camp Lejune in 1954, was a complete 1937 NM rifle with an early '03-A3 Remington pin stock. Go figure. One rifle, # 15263XX, had an early "S" stock with the last four digits of the serial number stamped in.

Serial numbers were found on all stocks exhibiting NM features, but only three stocks matched the rifle. All had the NM heavy checkered butt plate.

Two rifles were found with checkered stocks. Both were identical and both rifles were unused 1939 vintage NM Rifles.

There has been talk of modified barrel hedding, but I have never seen such work applied.

The stocks were said to be varnished for water proofing. Only one rifle that I examined, # 1344Xxx, was in fact, varnished. Both the stock and the hand guard had varnish applied.

CARTOUCHES

Most all the rifles had cartouches. Pre-1936 stocks were marked D.A.L., and later rifles had the SA over S.P.G. cartouche. Several reported rifles had rework cartouches, but it is my opinion that rework cartouches were not used in the Marine rework system, and most certainly the rifles were never sent to Springfield Armory for repair. Authenticated rifles of Marine origin that have been reworked showed no inspectors marks or a circle "P", unless they used a stock that already had them. They made no attempt to obliterate the old markings.

TRIGGER ASSEMBLIES AND GUARDS

Milled trigger guards and housings were used exclusively. You can tell a Marine modified trigger housing by the milling done on the top edge of the guard that touches the receiver when assembled. This was done so that the trigger housing could be tightened down all the way with no contact with the receiver. Rifle # 1344Xxx had the screws staked into place after they were tightened, so that they would not come loose and affect the accuracy of the rifle. This rifle is a known piece of Marine Rifle Team Equipment.

SIGHTS

Many Marine Snipers have been seen with the so-called U.S.M.C. iron sights. Most of the rifles were converted from RTE, (Rifle Team Equipment), and therefore would not have had these sights, as they were never actually used by Marine Shooting Teams or by the Marines as a whole either. Standard front sights were left in place without sight covers, as the covers tended to come into view of the telescope.

I do not know why, but almost all Marine Sniper Rifles have the standard 1905 rear sight with the pre-WWI

notch. This includes several 1939-vintage NM Rifles that were near mint or actually in as-new condition.

HAND GUARDS

Almost every hand guard observed had the large top cut professionally done with some sort of milling machine. The block hole was another matter. I have seen the block holes perfectly cut; but some have a hole with rounded edges, and I have seen a couple that looked like they were cut out with a pocket knife. One thing they all had in common was that they were all WW2 replacement hand guards with the single straight cut for the windage knob. None of the rifles I examined had its original hand guard modified for the block. None of the rifles examined had any markings underneath, although specimens exist that do.

UPPER SLING SWIVELS

Another strange addition to a lot of observed Marine Sniper Rifles was the use of pre-WWI split sling swivels. Your guess is as good as mine why these would be used.

BOLTS

Bolts for most of these rifles were polished, numbered, and then had some sort of bluing applied to cut the glare. Some rifles exist without the bluing of the bolt. Once you have seen a blued Sniper bolt, you will see how hard it would be for a faker to make one and give it the appearance of a 60-year old bolt.

Bolts were marked as to the type of steel, on the top of the root where it joins the body. Most all were marked "N.S.", for nickel steel. The very last of production were marked "D1".

Early Marine Sniper bolts that were fitted to rifles

that were Hatcher Hole modified, will have the single gas escape hole drilled to a much larger size than those modified by Army Ordnance. The later bolts for receivers with original Hatcher Hole, (1936 and later), will have two gas escape holes in the bottom as manufactured at the Armory.

The extractors on the later bolts were marked "CV" to denote chrome vanadium steel.

SCOPE BASES (BLOCKS)

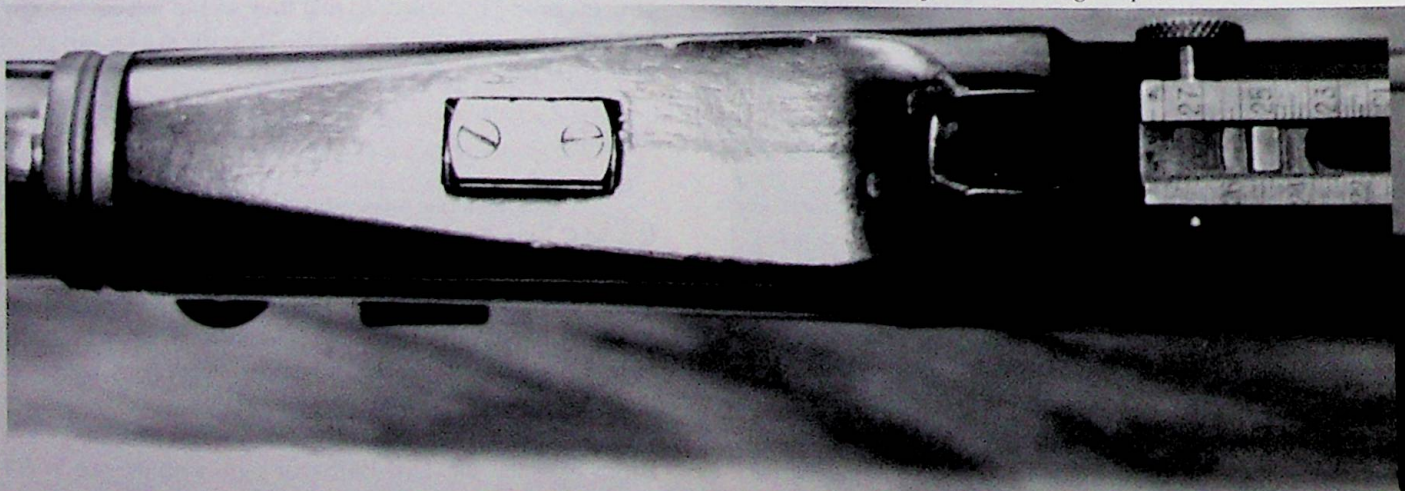
There seems to be very little variance in the Unertl bases that were originally ordered with the telescopes. They were of a combination type that could be used with either Unertl or Winchester A-5 mounts. They are lettered on the bottoms, O for the rear base and E for the front base. These were the Unertl codes for use on the 1903 Springfield, N.R.A. Sporter, and Gallery Practice Rifles. The O & E bases were still being made until recently; and unless the bases have the small hole in the side for the Winchester A-5 mounts, they are not technically correct. There are other types of bases that have been reported, and they may or may not be correct. It is a known fact that Unertl supplied the bases for Sniper Rifles; but other types of bases were in the Marine supply system years before WW2, and some of these bases may have found their way onto genuine Marine Corps Sniper Rifles.

TELESCOPES

The scope of choice for the Marine Sniper Rifle was the 7.8 X, 1 1/4" objective, 24"-long, Unertl Target Scope with the 1/4 minute clicks and anodized Duraluminum mount. Half minute click varieties have been noted also.

The scope was also to have a center dot, and most I have seen did have a dot; but I have also seen several that did not have one. I am sure some of the crosswires were replaced

Original handguard showing front block cut, chips in varnish from removing scope,



and the dots left out for some reason or another.

These special scopes were marked U.S.M.C. SNIPER and were serially numbered from a low of #1000 to a high (observed) of #2775. No one is sure how many actually were produced, but best estimates have put the number at around 2,500.

The scopes were finished originally with commercial blue, but several have been seen that appear to have been parkerized. More than likely, these have been reworked. Scope # 1002, for example, was found with the grey parkerized finish.

CARRYING CASES

Micarta carrying cases were produced to protect the scope when it was not attached to the rifle, but the scopes were very seldom if ever removed from the rifles. There are no known combat photos of the carrying case in use. They were just too long and would have been a hindrance to any Scout Sniper. There were other cases made for the scope out of aluminum; these are quite rare, and they are a collectors dream.

SUMMARY

In summary, there appear to have been only 1,047 Team Rifles that were available at Philadelphia for conversion to Sniper configuration. If they were all the rifles that were converted, it would make this variation of 1903 Springfield one of the rarest of all known varieties.

There are a couple of rifles that were built on WW2 reworks, but whether or not they are legit is another matter. Also, a couple have been noted as being built on 1903 Remington rifles, but my opinion is that the Marines would not have considered the Remington to be as suitable for Scout Sniper conversion as the highly accurate NM Springfield. Still, it is a possibility and cannot be discounted.

Much has been said as to the accuracy of the WW2 Sniper Rifles, including ours, our allies', and of course our enemies'. I suppose I would be stepping out on a limb to suggest that the 1903A1/Unertl was the most accurate of all the WW2 Sniper Rifles; but the 1903 Springfield, in National Match configuration, could not be beaten when in the hands of a Marine Corps Expert Rifleman.

The only drawback to this rifle was the very fragile scope. While probably the best scope available for target shooters of the period, it was simply too fragile to be used in combat situations; but it was far superior to the \$2.00 Weaver scope used on the '03-A4 rifles.

Beware of fakes. They are out there in greater numbers than legit rifles actually produced. I have seen a few fakes being sold by a New York dealer in the past. A couple of the "authentic" U.S.M.C. Sniper Rifles that appeared in his published list were equipped with Lyman 48 sights and were listed in

Mallory's little blue book of D.C.M. Rifle Sales. He also had some that were very legit.

There is no evidence that any genuine Marine Corps Sniper rifles were sold by anyone other than the U.S. Marine Corps. Sales of their surplus 1903s and '03-A3s began in the Fall of 1954. Officers were allowed to inspect the weapons, and the rest of the Marines stood in line and took what they handed you. The three Sniper Rifles I mentioned as being owned by their original purchaser were in fact hand picked by these men, all Marine officers. Retired Major Bill Wilson, then a Captain, asked to be allowed to purchase a 1903 with a "star gauged barrel" and received rifle # 1497Xxx, which was later determined to be a genuine Marine Sniper Rifle. He had always wondered why it had scope blocks attached. My father, a M/Sgt., U.S.M.C. with 17 years in, stood in line and received, for his \$25.00, a 1910 vintage, WW2 reworked 1903. He gave that rifle to me for my 12th birthday, and I still have it.

Most of the original rifles out there now have been purchased from older former Marines; and I am sure that a few more are reposing in dark closets, as mine was for almost 40 years before seeing the light of day again. It belonged to a former Marine Captain who sold it to a former Marine Major while he was at his home on a visit. It was still in its original U.S.M.C.-marked shipping box with the address of the former owner on a Railway Express shipping tag. The rifle was wrapped in green wax paper; and attached to the barrel of the rifle were tags identifying the gun as R.T.E. (Rifle Team Equipment), and a note to hold the rifle for shipping to the Captain at his Vallejo, California residence. Paperwork with the rifle also included a typed letter for the requisition of a Springfield 1903 from Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, California, at the price of \$25.00, dated 5 November 1954.

Although it had been stripped of its status as a Marine Corps Sniper Rifle by having its scope blocks removed and the holes filled with blind screws, it still had its unique hand guard attached.

When I purchased this rifle in 1996, I restored it to Sniper status by the addition of the correct Unertl blocks, and I topped it with a genuine issue Sniper Scope.

Anyone wishing to add information to this article, or to refute any of the information herein, may do so through Mr. Frank Mallory at Springfield Research.

I am also willing to share the info on the 42 Sniper Rifles and 66 scopes, I have on my list. All I ask in return is information on your Marine Sniper Rifle and scope.

I am sure I have left some important things out, but this article was designed to help give a little valuable knowledge to a collector that owns one of these rifles or intends to purchase one in the future.

Semper Fi!

Where the Buckle Belongs!

by Clark S. Campbell

The 43 years that have followed the publication of my *The '03 Springfield* have continued to produce additional bits of information that, in revised editions, have significantly fleshed-out that book's first ever recording of virtually the whole story of the development and production of the Cal. .30 and Cal. .22 "Springfields", their accessories and appendages, and their ammunition. Early reader feedback, for example, provided for the addition of the *seventh* rifle sling, that produced in 1904.

But NO ONE has ever advised me that I have had the M1923 (webbing) sling configured wrong, presumably because no one seems ever to have unearthed documentation regarding it. With a sling then in hand and the need to picture it along with the other slings, I tried to puzzle it out even as I gathered information, organized and wrote it up, and did the illustrations for that early book under pressure from that book's publisher. I did get the loop portion's adjustment correct, but missed the obvious place for the 3-slot buckle, resulting in my depicting a sling that would work, sure enough, but would be inconvenient to adjust for "loop sling" use.

Just last month, though, when on interlibrary loan I got Skinnerton's *The U.S. Enfield* (as published in Australia) to check-out Lend-Lease rifle shipment figures, I discovered therein his drawing of the M1923 (webbing) sling — one of the sling styles furnished Great Britain on Lend-Lease. Although the "Brits" did not use the "loop sling", there was the 3-slot buckle *on* the tail where it could have been used to secure the tail for use with the loop sling; but was undoubtedly kept for use in cross-back carry.

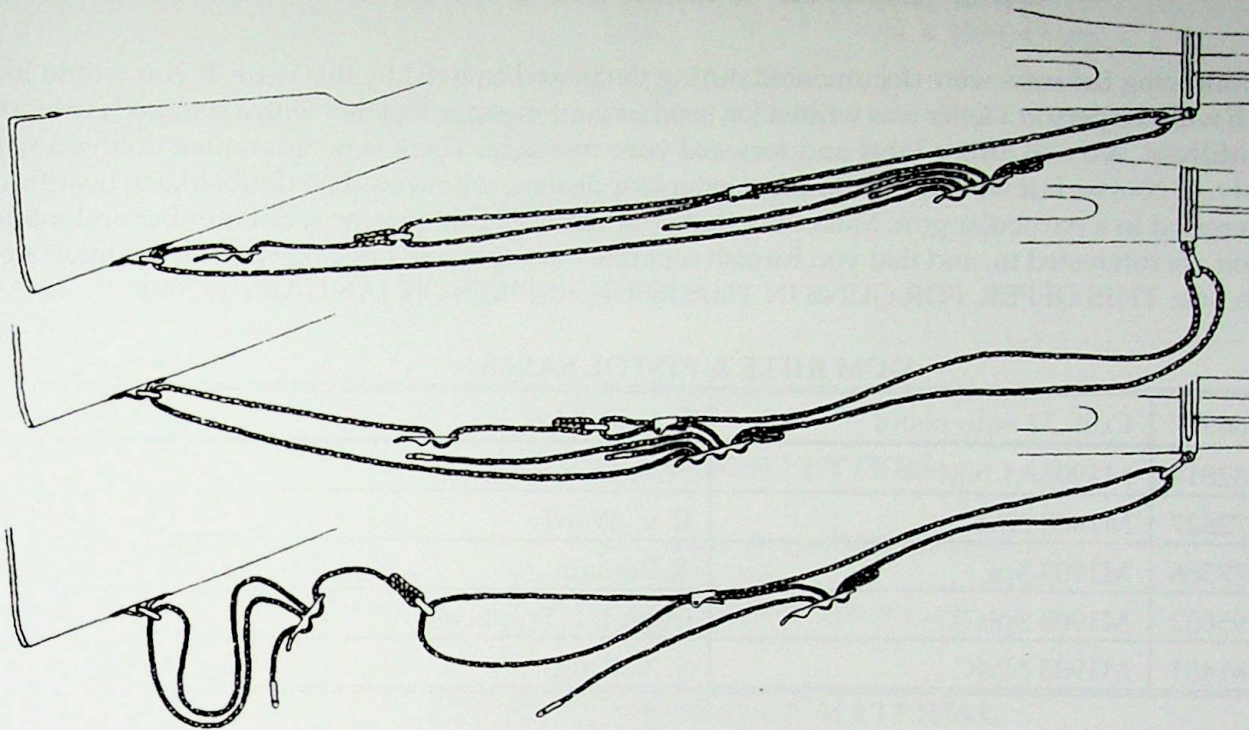
The proper configuration for the M1923 sling, now

obvious, I submit herewith in a drawing U.S.M.A.C. readers can Xerox and paste over the drawing now in their copies of *The '03 Era* to make depictions of all seven of the U.S. slings produced from 1900 through WWII correct as to adjustment as well as to configuration.

Configured as shown, it is arguably the best rifle sling the Army has ever had, albeit one not as elegant as the M1907 sling of the early peacetime Army. For the loop, once adjusted to the shooter, is, like that of the M1907, fixed; the transition from "parade" to carry or "hasty sling" is at least as quick; and the loop is much more readily secured on the shooter's upper arm for firing with the loop sling.

As can be seen from the drawings, transition from "parade" to carry or "hasty sling" adjustment involves only loosening the clamp, pulling rearward on the 5-slot buckle, and reclamping. Merely undoing the "tail" from the 5-slot buckle and passing its end through the two rear slots of the 3-slot buckle prepares the sling for cross-chest carry or for use as a "loop sling" — for which use one then merely loosens the clamp, reaches through the loop, and tightens the clamp close to his upper arm.

The Ordnance people of the immediate post-WWI period can now be seen as having done excellent work in developing this sling to replace the only reasonably-satisfactory M1917 (webbing) sling. But their successors of WWII can now only be judged as having been shameful in abandoning it in favor of the sling, Gun, M1 (webbing), a lighter and cheaper sling, but one nearly worthless as a shooting aid and one not even as good as a carrying strap, considering its considerably thinner webbing. ♣



58. Three views of the Sling, Gun, M1923 (webbing). From top:
 "Parade"; Carrying and "Hasty Sling"; "Loop Sling" adjustments.
 All 1/5 scale.

Guns "Lettered" During Current Period

The following firearms were documented during the period covered by this issue. If you would like to get in touch with the person a letter was written for, send us your message together with a stamped envelope with blank address. We will affix a label and forward your message. There is no guarantee that you will receive a reply, of course; but we write quite a few letters for dealers, who would no doubt like to hear from someone interested in a particular gun. Make sure that your message contains the serial number and model of the gun you are interested in, and that you furnish separate messages and envelopes if you are interested in more than one. THIS OFFER, FOR GUNS IN THIS ISSUE, EXPIRES ON JANUARY 1, 2001.

DCM RIFLE & PISTOL SALES

566917	Colt .32 auto pistol	S. L. Peebles
1262814	M1903A1 NM	N. L. Glossbrenner
1272827	M1903 NM	R. C. Ward
1277566	M1903 Spt	T. Botham
1295632	M1903 Spt(?)	Capt. J. L. Stephens
1361451	M1903 NMC	S. N. King

CIVIL WAR

28370	Colt M1860 revolver	Co. L, 5th Ohio Vol. Cav.
120089	Colt M1860 revolver	Co. F, 2nd Pennsylvania Vol. Cav.
9340	Henry rifle	Co. C, 3rd U.S. Veteran Vol. Inf.
51405	Spencer carbine	Co. A, 7th Indiana Vol. Cav.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

261648	M1884 rifle	Co. K, 3rd Nebraska Vol. Inf.
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U.S. ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, COAST GUARD, etc.

34255	Colt Artillery revolver	2nd U.S. Art.
54152	Colt M1911 pistol	5th U.S. Cav., Mex. Punitive Exp.
26290	M1873 rifle	Battery C, 5th U.S. Art.
9053	M1903 rifle	Ohio Engr., Mex. Punitive Exp.

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Serial Numbers of US Martial Arms

Vol. 1, 1983, 103 pp.	\$15.00
Vol. 2, 1986, 209 pp.	20.00

Vol. 3, 1990, 198 pp.	20.00
Vol. 4, 1999, 470 pp.	40.00

<i>U.S. Martial Arms Collector</i> (per year)	25.00
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Back issues

<i>Springfield Research Newsletter</i> (3 - 55) (Index to 1st 40 issues: SASE)	5.00 ea
<i>U.S. Martial Arms Collector</i> (Issue 56 to current issue)	10.00 ea.

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SERIAL NUMBER LETTERS

1) Sales records (M1903 1922-42, M1922, M1, Win. .22 rifles, M1911NM & GO pistols)	\$30.00
2) Disposal Records (M1909, M1917, .38 revolvers; M1903 1950s)	\$15.00
3) Service records (Civil War and Span-Am War Volunteers, General Officers)	\$20.00
4) All others	\$50.00

COPIES OF ORDNANCE MATERIAL

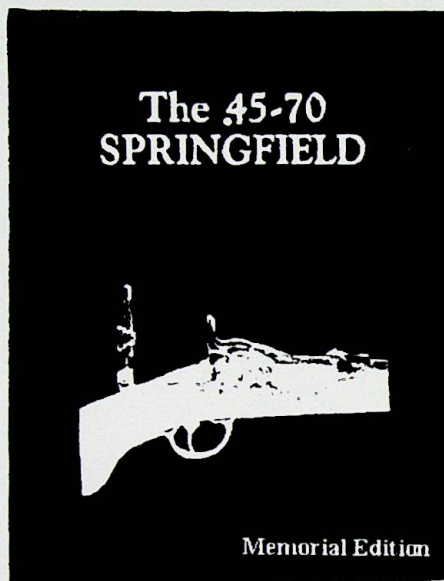
These are simply copies of material of interest from the Ordnance files, priced at the approximate cost of Archives reproduction (currently 30¢ per page).

1) Reports on Custer's Battles of the Yellowstone, Aug., 1873	7.50
2) "The First U. S. Small Caliber Rifle - History of the Models of 1892, 1896, 1898 and 1899 Caliber .30 Rifles and Carbines" (12 August 1943)	9.00
3) Standard Nomenclature List No. B-3, U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903 - Parts Accessories and Appendages (April 14, 1923)	7.50
4) "History of the Development of Small Arms Conducted by the Rifle Branch During World War II", by Maj. E. G. Cooper	
a) Experimental Designs Applied to the M1 Rifle	7.00
b) Shotguns	3.00
5) "Shotguns - Development, Procurement and Production - 1917-1945" - Project Supporting Paper No. 42, October 1945	7.00
6) "History of Small Arms Procurement, 1939 -1945", written and compiled by S. H. Beach, 1st Lt., Ord. Dept. - M1903 Rifle, M1 Carbine, M1 Rifle, and Rifle Grenade Launchers	6.50
7) Official USMC correspondence on Sniper Rifles (incl. Ord. Maint. Bulletin)	25.50
8) "Rifle, U.S. Caliber .30 M1917 - Development and Production - 1917 - 1945" - Project Supporting Paper No. 37, August 1945	16.00

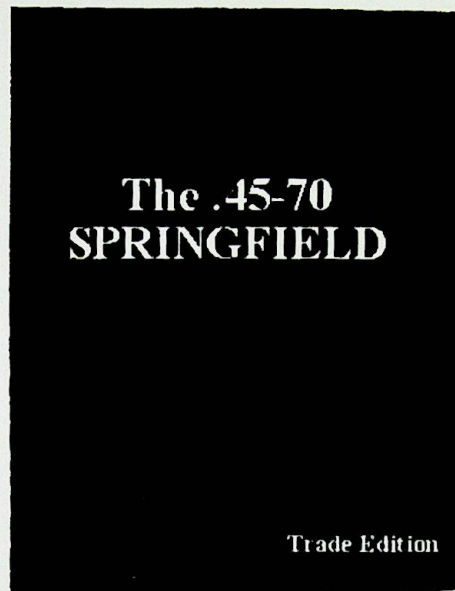
9) Small Arms Data Book, 1939 - Section A, Weapons; Section B, Ammunition	6.50
10) "U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1 - History of Design, Dev., Procurement, and Prod., 1936 - 1945" ...	36.00
11) "Historical Notes Rel. to Rifles, Cal. .22"	6.00
12) Project Supporting Paper - Misc. Pistol and Revolvers - 15 Aug. '45	24.00
13) Project Supporting Paper, Pistol, Auto., cal. .45, M1911A1, 1917 - Aug., 1945	13.50
14) "Summary of Issues of the Pistol, Auto., Cal. .380, Colt to General Officers"	36.00
15) Project Supporting Paper - Bayonets, Knives, and Scabbards - 1917 - August 1945	35.00
16) Project Supporting Paper - U.S. Carbine, cal. .30 - Narrative & Exhibits, July 1945	37.00
17) Ordnance Field Service BASE SHOP DATA, U.S. RIFLE, M1903A1, Jan. 1943	16.50
18) Desc. & Instr. for the Use and Care of the Winchester S. S. Rifle Cal. .22	4.00
19) Notes on Cal. .30 Model of 1918 Pistol (Pedersen Device) by Capt. S.G. Green	13.50
20) Ord. Note 115, Oct. 1, 1879. Arms Captured from Hostile Indians	7.50
21) List of Infantry Board reports, 1916-40	10.00
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