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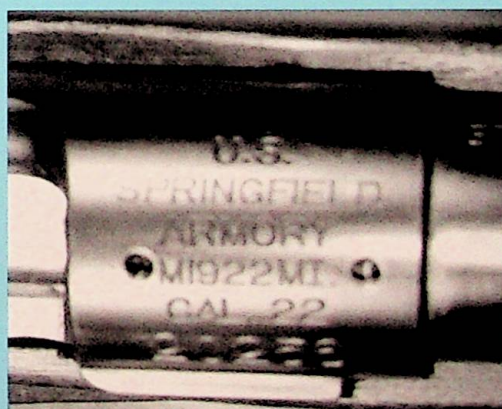
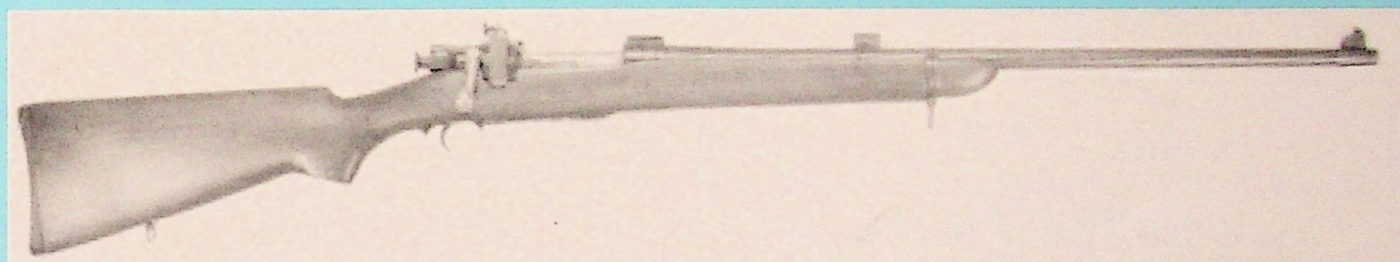
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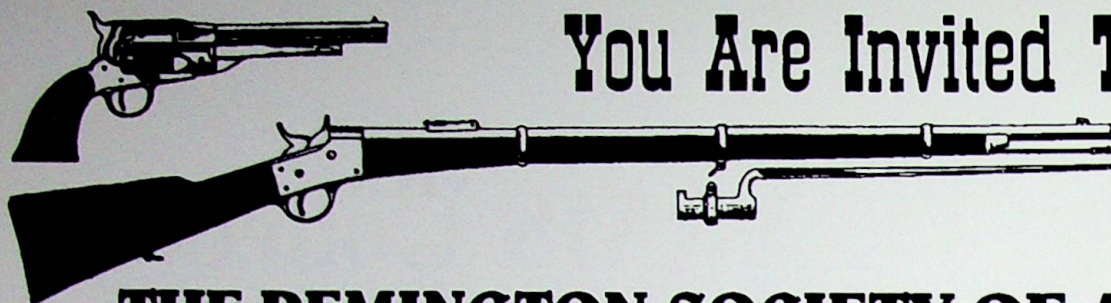
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Number 96 April/July 2001

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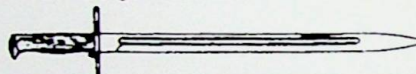
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U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 96

April/July 2001

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Over: Top: M1922MII NRA .22 rifle
s.n. 20257, sold as "M1922M1, with
M2 bolt and magazine assembly" on
10/4/35 (former Butch Eyberg
collection). Bottom: Receiver panel
on unconverted M1922MI NRA rifle
s.n. 20256 with 10/31 barrel, sold
4/9/40 to Western Cartridge
Company. Neither record indicates
drilling & tapping for 'scope blocks.

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Miscellaneous News and Notes

Research During This Period

Most of the research time during this period was spent going through the Navy ordnance records at Archives II. The 1946 records do not appear to have a massive amount of serial number data as would be expected for the transition from M1903 to M1 records. It appears that the only change that occurred during 1946 was the substitution of M1903 rifles for the dummy drill rifles that had been used for recruit training. I do not know if the plastic drill bayonets were replaced at the same time.

At Archives I, I found the serial numbers of the Krag rifles used in the 1907 Palma Trophy Match. These numbers are listed among the Krag serial numbers on the last page of this issue.

KRS II

The second edition of *The Krag Rifle Story* was produced entirely electronically, and I expected it to get out quicker. It has been printed and is at the case binder, so it should be out soon.

M1903 SERIES DRILL RIFLES

M1903 series rifles which were demilitarized by the U.S. Army for drill use by the JROTC are now available from the CMP. Rifles will not shoot, but are adequate for manual of arms ceremonies and as wall hangers, and as parts guns for wood, sights, and some other components.

Rifles have welded magazine cutoffs, plugged, cut and welded barrels, and welded bolts. All drill rifles are missing the front sight blade and or the elevation binding knob. Some will lack a band screw and or swivel. In some cases the butt traps are missing. Rifles can not be made functional and there is no annual purchase limit.

These rifles are available in two grades:

- GRADE A: Rifles will have a few missing parts and sound wood. Price: \$100.00
- GRADE B: Rifles will have more missing parts than grade "A" and the wood will be cracked or badly gouged. Some will have plastic stocks. Price: \$50.00

PLEASE NOTE: "Receivers have been weakened by demil (welding) and are not safe for firing". These rifles

can not be built into a safe and functional rifle.

My Health

Took a turn for the worse at the end of April when it was discovered that I have advanced cancer. While I am optimistic that I can overcome it, I am taking steps to ensure that Springfield Research Service will continue even if I don't. There are people lined up to take over our letter writing and book distribution functions; also, I have given copies of my research notes to several persons including Military Reference personnel at the National Archives (ask for "Mallory Finding Aids"). Any other suggestions would be welcomed.

This issue is larger than usual to partially compensate for any gap that may occur in publication.

Contributors

Thanks to Jan Janus, Mike Campbell, and others who contributed data during this quarter. Special thanks to Fred Ewalt for help in entering the Navy data.

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.

- Wanted: Whereabouts of Spencer carbine serial no. 49646, for photographing or purchase. Dr. John Kudlik, 412-366-5067 or jkudlik@aol.com.
- For Sale: Receiver 1901 Rock Arsenal Arsenal in the white, 80% plus milled, has been drilled for scope, exc. cond., \$200.00. Cartridge box McKeever RIA 1904 with 10 rounds F.A. 11-05 in stripper clips, near mint, \$140.00. John Myers 309-699-6225..
- Wanted:: Springfield Trapdoor Long Range rifle, Jap Garand, Johnson Model 1941 any caliber. Tom Mulligan PO Box 306 Island Park, NY 11558 Mulligun@aol.com

Letters Received & Sent

M1870 Carbines at Little Bighorn

Finally I will have an article put into Gun Report on a possible Custer gun I just got, one of those 1870 US Springfield carbines in .50-70 (341 made). I found out the 7th Cav under my hero G. Custer got 32 of these guns and were used at the Yellowstone Campaign Dec. 4, 1873, & Dec. 11, 1874. And also I got some info that 15 were still active in the 7th Cav in 1876.

Are you aware of any of the 1870 US carbines retrieved after the June 25, 1876 Little Bighorn battle as some 1873 45/70s were recovered?

It is too bad that these 1870s were not serial numbered. Survival rate must be low, and I guess one can only assume if one is owned it could have been 7th Cav. prudently.

I hope to hear from you soon. This question is very important for the article; Mike Carrick will be doing the story.

L. W., Arizona

The available Ordnance returns show that the 7th Cav. was accountable for seven Springfield cal. .50 carbines at the time of the battle (2 in Troop F and 5 in Troop G). There is one at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum that is thought to have been used in the battle. Unfortunately, many of the carbines belonging to the slain troopers (those not carried off by the Indians) were burned and buried near the battlefield, due to lack of transport.

Other Little Bighorn Weapons

Do you have any info (serial #s) as to the Spencer and Sharps carbines used by 7th Cavalry; also any info on captured 1870 .50 cal. Springfield carbines after 1876?

L. W., Arizona

We have a few numbers for Sharps carbines on hand in the 7th Cavalry in 1871; none after the battle, and no Spencers.

There is a problem identifying M1870 carbines that may be listed in post-battle reports. The problem is that a number of M1868 rifles with "1870" breech-block were cut to carbine length by the Indians or others, and these may have been reported as "1870

carbine. If you don't already have it, you should get a copy of Ord. Note 115, Oct. 1, 1879, "Arms Captured from Hostile Indians".

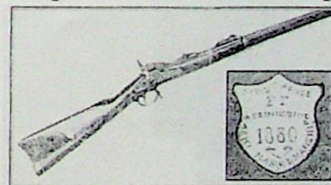
The following data on carbines and pistols is extracted from the 1st Quarter 1876 7th Cavalry ordnance returns, and below that is a summary prepared by the Ord. Department.

Note that the Ord. Dept. summary gives some data for 2nd Qtr. 1876 (quarter ending June 30), which if accurate would reflect battle losses.

Spencer carbines weren't re-issued until after the battle, and I don't know if the 7th Cavalry received any.

	7th Cavalry Ordnance Returns - 1st Qtr 1876			Pistols	
	Carbines				
	Spfld 50	Spfld 45	Sharps 50	Colt	Rem SS
A		81	4	82	
B		71	5	70	
C		85		79	
D					
E		77		80	
F	2	78		72	3
G		78	5	76	
H					
I		83		83	
K					
L		82		82	
M					
Store		4		15	
Total	2	639	14	639	3

Trapdoor Marksmanship Award Rifle



I have the enclosed prize rifle, and have searched the Dept. of the Dakota and Fort Assiniboine post orders for 1880 and have not found any reference to a rifle being awarded for marksmanship.

I have gone through all the serial number books and issues of "Martial Arms Collector", to no avail.

When you went through arsenal "Register of Ordnance Stores Sold", do you recall a rifle, service fancy burl walnut stock, being mentioned as sold in calendar year 1880 to the Dept. of Dakota? Might show up late fiscal year 1879.

I wonder if it would be listed as rifle sold and not a note of serial number?

T. N. T., California

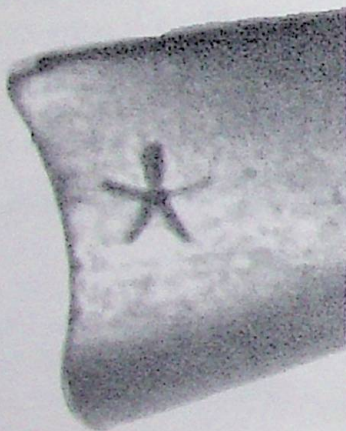
Sorry, I can't find anything on this rifle. As you have found, the records of Fort Assinniboine for that period are very sparse. The ABSTRACT OF REPORTS OF SALES OF ORDNANCE. STORES AT DEPOTS & ARSENALS shows no sales at Fort Assinniboine; also, the burl stock wouldn't be mentioned in the sales abstracts unless there were an additional charge for it, which would probably not have been the case.

Re Indian-marked Trapdoor Carbine

Ref 94-7, star on trapdoor buttstock. (enclosing copy of "Weapons with Spiritual Power" by Robert W. Smith, from Number Four, 1995, *The Gun Report*).

M. C., Oregon

In issue Number 94, there was a letter from a Texas subscriber describing an unaltered M1873 trapdoor carbine in his collection. Its serial number was 41254 and it had a Native American symbol carved into its stock: a circle in the center with five rays emanating out from it. I have a similar carbine in my collection, serial no. 43501, with the same exact



symbol and was pleased to learn of the possible Lakota connection as cited in his letter. I had purchased my carbine in 1990 from the author/collector Graham Burnside. When he first acquired the gun, he said there was a shred of red trade blanket embedded in the center depression of the symbol carved into the right side of the stock. Am also including several photographs of # 43501.

Of interest here, is an article published in "Man At Arms" in 1995 titled "Weapons with Spiritual Powers" by Robert W. Smith. Six additional M1873 carbines are pictured in his article, each having the

same type of symbol as mentioned above. Their listed serial numbers are: 35474, 35609, 36461, 41290, 41427 and 43540. My own, and the one in Texas, fall into this same extremely "fertile" serial no. range (33000 to 43700) for cavalry issued carbines. With regard to the design in the stock, I had at first thought it represented, perhaps, a sunburst or such; but some of the guns pictured in the article show an actual star-like design.

I checked into the Lakota People of the Great Sioux Nation. They seem to have an affinity for the planet Venus, the Morning Star, and incorporate it into their ceremonies and works of art. I wonder if the design on the carbine stocks represents that particular celestial body, often shown having a red center. Also, all of the symbols are carved into the same area of the stock, on the right side of the butt stock in a rearward position denoting an unusual degree of regimentation, perhaps hinting of warrior society usage. Smith, in his article, also mentions the possibility of such a society. Whatever the significance of this symbol, the guns are rare in that they are unaltered, show Native American usage and are serial numbered coinciding with a most interesting era of American military history.

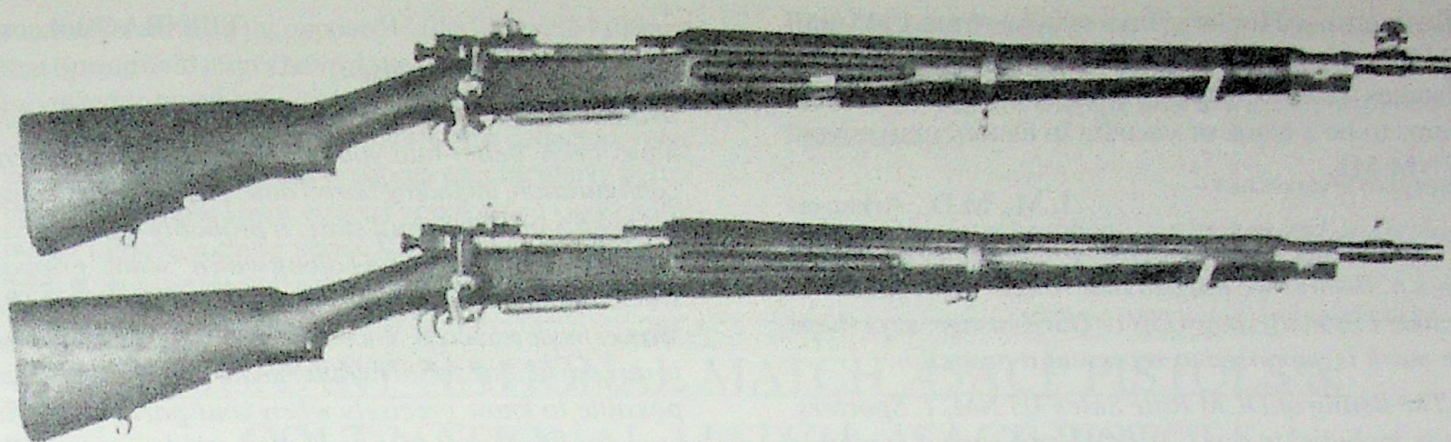
W. R., Minnesota

S.A.A. Replacement Parts

The letter from R.L., Missouri is of interest and I may be of some help to you both. The Colt S.A.A. replacement parts ordered by the government were not stamped with a serial number. Neither were the replacement barrels and cylinders used on the guns when repaired from 1900 to 1903. A possible exception would have been any replacement parts on the 2,000 revolvers repaired during 1895 and 1896 - Colt's would have added serial numbers to these but I know of none. Most of the replacement parts will have sub-inspectors' marks.

The revolver with serial number 17723 would have been altered and given mixed serial numbers by Springfield Armory in 1898. Its parts would have been used on any other gun there at the time. It was then sent to Colt's for cleaning and repairs in 1903. At Colt's, the serial numbers on all these guns were remixed. In the process, the triggerguard #17723 was attached to the no-number frame that Mr. R.L. now owns. For more details, see the Alterations book (*Colt Single Action Army Revolvers - U.S. Alterations*, by C. Kenneth Moore).

C. K. M., Pennsylvania



.303 Remington M1903 Prototypes

I have enjoyed the series of articles on the origins of the Remington M1903 rifle. They are most informative.

USMAC #92 page 92-14 mentions that (L.) Ray Crittendon was responsible for the redesign of the M1903. L. Ray Crittendon, after the war, was one of the premier gun designers for Remington, and the design team he worked on developed the Model 11-48 autoloader shotgun, Model 740 autoloader center fire rifle, and the Model 760 pump action centerfire rifle. Those same designs, updated and refined, are still in production today.

USMAC #94 page 94-11 mentions that four prototype M1903 rifles altered to use the British .303 cartridge were made and tested. Two of these prototypes were on display in the old Remington Museum in Ilion, NY. They were illustrated in the 1966 Museum catalog. They are the second and third rifles from the top in Case #29.

The Remington Society of America Research Team has located the 1952 Inventory listing of Remington Museum rifles. It lists three of these rifles; the Inventory number was stamped on a brass tag on the toe of the buttstock. I have copied the listing as it is written:

#1270 - Rem M1903 (British) Rifle Bolt Act - Box Mag (Model) Cal .303 British CF bbl 24" Serial number 479279

#1300 - Rem M1903 (British) Rifle Bolt Act - Box Mag (altered) (Model) Cal. .303 British CF bbl 24" [No serial number noted]

#1301 - Rem M1903 (British) Rifle Bolt Act - Box Mag (Model) Cal .303 British CF bbl 24" [No serial number noted].

In addition, the 1952 Inventory listing has 17 other M1903s. One, #1474, is of interest as it is currently on display in the Remington Museum. The 1952 notes indicate "Danger Don't Shoot, ADV Dept." It has no serial number and the wood is nicely figured.

The brass tag inventory numbers are no longer in use.

E. M., New York

Strange that #1270 would have such a high serial number, indicating perhaps that it was built from an SA or RIA receiver.

Unusual '03 Proof Mark

I am enclosing a photo of mark in front of magazine screw on stock of a NM '03A1 sold through DCM late '30s - SN 1,506,888.



Also, Ferris' article on 1919 Rock Island '03NM in Man at Arms was fascinating and well done.

Also, is there any list of serial numbers for the Springfield made NM rifles? If so, I would like to purchase copy.

I understand P.17 rifles were used in 1918 rifles at Paris, France. Were M1917 rifles eligible for subsequent National Match competition afterwards? What sort of

rifles were used for large bore matches from 1945 until NM M1 came along in the '50s? I know that .30 cal. National Matches were not resumed until late '40s or '50s. There seems to be a blank or vacuum in history until advent of NM M1.

J. M., M.D., Arkansas

1) I don't think I have seen that proof mark before. The few s.n. listings we have in that range (which does not include 1506888) show USN or USCG usage, so perhaps the mark is supposed to represent a propellor.

2) The listing of DCM Rifle Sales '03 NM, T, Sporters, etc is included in our CD-ROM and is also available separately (on paper) for \$5.00.

3) A few M1917 rifles were used in the great Interallied Matches at LeMans in 1918, but they had the disadvantage of lacking windage adjustment.

4) The first postwar-II National (individual) championship highpower matches were held in 1951 at Camp Matthews, California. Highpower matches fired at Fort Benning, Georgia, the following year included team as well as individual championships. They were divided into two championships: Service Rifle (M1), and NRA Match Rifle (any .30-06 rifle with metallic sights, weight less than 10 lbs., and trigger pull of at least 3 lbs.).

Krag Carbine w/o a Serial Number

Did you ever hear of a Krag carbine that was un-stamped with a serial number? The only number I can find on this gun is on the bottom of the Mag box and someone has scribed the number 39 in the bottom. It does not have any signs of being ground or sanded off. I have attached a picture.

Gregg Delta3097@aol.com

There are a few receivers that are known to have been made without serial numbers, e.g., the transition from M1896 to M1898, which was marked "MODEL 1897" with no number. But I think that most of these unnumbered receivers were used in the Sub-Target machine or subcaliber devices.

I think it is very unlikely that a regulation Krag carbine could have gotten out of Springfield Armory without a serial number.

Remington '03A4 #4995294

I own a 1903A4 Sniper rifle, (Remington of course) SN 4995294. Could you tell me the date of Manufacture and anything else about my rifle. Thank you.

TJRNRA@aol.com

(Reply by William Hansen)

In order to assess your rifle's present originality, it would have been better had you fully described it's present configuration, including barrel date. However, assuming it remains in an original state, it probably has a barrel date of either 12/43 or 1/44 along with a "scant" gripped stock (e.g. modified pistol grip) and carries a M73B1 Weaver made telescope. Since these rifles were not assembled in any particular serial number sequence, it's really not possible to know precisely when your particular rifle was actually "manufactured". Nevertheless, your rifle was likely one of the last 3000 or so made, being assembled in the February to April, 1944 time frame.

Other than the foregoing, there is not much specific information that can be further provided other than general information you may already have. Your particular rifle is rather scarce in terms of the total number produced. It came out of the last block of serial numbers assigned (third block) with fewer than an estimated 6,500 such rifles made in the 499XXXX range. These rifles were under great demand and were being shipped out by Remington Arms as fast as they could be assembled and batched. Very few of them have special provenance. In other words, the archives seem to sparsely reveal exactly who used them or names of the units of service they were specifically assigned to. Such information will hopefully be more available someday as we are allowed to dig deeper.

M1896 Krag with 1901-dated Short Stock

I understand you are working on a book about Krag rifles. I have an Model 1896 carbine (serial 72750) with the short stock and with JLA inspector's cartouche of 1901. Brophy's book (page 54) mentions 736 short stocks being made for unknown purposes in 1901. Brophy's book also emphasizes that re-issue or re-furbish stocks were of the long forearm style, and even more important, that they were never stamped by the firearms inspector. I can only make an educated guess as to the origin of mine. The 1901 mark on an 1896 does not make sense after the 1898 and 1899 carbines were issued. There is no sling ring and the barrel band is unlike any other shown in Brophy's book. It has no sight protector for one thing and it is definitely a quality production item. The gun has a Lyman peep sight marked Pat June 25 95. It was expertly installed and a router operation used to make it flush on the stock. Single installations by gunsmiths are normally done with a chisel. Part of the sideplate was

Carefully machined (as opposed to filed) as well. I suspect that Springfield might have done this. The rifle has been modified somewhat over the years (recoil pad, fine line checkering and a higher front sight) so the collectors value has been diminished but it shoots spectacularly better than anything else I own. Brophy's book was a Godsend for me as I knew nothing about Krag's when I bought the thing at an estate auction along with one dozen hand-carved

decoys for \$75 back in 1975. If you are interested in this I'd be happy to give you more information. The gun is still in very good shape and the 1901 cartouche has intrigued me.

vaningen@magma.ca

The original stock probably got broken and was replaced at Springfield Armory in 1901.

MILITARY NATIONAL MATCH .45ACP PISTOLS & COLT NATIONAL MATCH .45ACP PISTOLS

David Buehn

These pistols were inspected in late 1995, at the Crane Naval Weapons Station in Crane, Indiana. It is believed that these all came from the same source- The U.S. Coast Guard. The serial number was taken off the frame.

COLT COMMERCIAL NATIONAL MATCH .45 (std blue finish, checkered walnut stocks w/Colt medallions, ribbed slide w/Accro rear sight, wide NM adj. trigger, grooved front strap, NM bbl. bushing).

280336-C	"US COAST GUARD" marked on right side of the frame, std. width trigger, NM??
280891-C	NM??
159-NM	
224-NM	
264-NM	
974-NM	
1280-NM	"U.S.C.G." marked
1290-NM	
1299-NM	Mil. NM slide, "US COAST GUARD" marked frame
1308-NM	
2187-NM	

2402-NM	
2465-NM	"U.S.C.G." marked, Parkerized finish
2485-NM	
2602-NM	
2697-NM	
2801-NM	
2890-NM	Parkerized finish
2944-NM	"U.S.C.G." marked
4798-NM	
4848-NM	
4941-NM	
4944-NM	

4946-NM	slide "NM 7791435"
5016-NM	"U.S.C.G." marked
5018-NM	"U.S.C.G." marked
5019-NM	
5178-NM	"U.S. COAST GUARD" marked
5181-NM	
9367-NM	
9413-NM	
9836-NM	
9886-NM	"U.S. COAST GUARD" marked
9920-NM	
9960-NM	

10055-NM	
10223-NM	
10370-NM	
10822-NM	

11241-NM	
11563-NM	Parkerized finish
11660-NM	Parkerized finish

11682-NM	
11684-NM	

MILITARY NATIONAL MATCH .45ACP (Parkerized finish, checkered front strap, checkered walnut stocks, barrel, "NM7791414", slide "NM7791435", alum. trigger)

703828	"SA/NM", alum. trg, NM7791414, NM7791435, NM7267718, s/n bbl,adj.st
712006	
715421	Large "P" above mag catch, small "H" alongside mag. catch, " R " on top
752754	WB inspected, ?
771548	not NM
773519	"WB" insp.
787081	
802943	stpl. strap
813032	
820709	"SA/NM", Ithaca slide, std. sight, bbl. NM7791414
847812	
866334	"TZ" rt. rear of slide, "NM7790314" slide, high fixed st.
871813	
874157	No "SA/NM", stpl. strap, "GHD" insp.
875282	
884636	bbl. s/n, slide "NM7791435", frame s/n "989375"

908451	RIA/SA
985236	"NO." s/n prefix, "SA/NM", Colt slide w/angled serrations "NM7791435"
989375	slide "NM7791435", bbl. s/n "884636"
1037829	"SA/NM", alum. trigger, NM7791435, NM7791414, NM7267718, #d slide
1039357	
1039981	"RIA/T" marked, alum. trigger, ckr. strap, "FJA" inspected
1068604	
1169824	
1234595	
1261673	not NM
1267164	
1268582	No "SA/NM", s/n'd bbl., bushing not NM, adj. st.
1268950	Stpl. strap, "FJA" insp.
703044	s/n on bbl., frame s/n "XX13037"

1275351	"SA/NM", slide "NM7791435"
1280743	"SA/NM" and "T" marked, ckr. strap, "FJA" insp.
1283281	
1285383	
1324662	"FJA" inspected, ?
1326062	"SA/NM"
1330392	
1334186	slide marked on the right side in 3/8" letters "WADCUTTER", Micro rear sight, blue finish, bbl. NM779X313, Remington slide, Not NM marked
1337176	bbl. marked "H7176"
1343193	
1361514	
1366725	"SA/NM", bbl. "NM7791414"
1424114	
1426179	
1445935	"SA/NM", slide NM7791435, Triangle st., Colt std. bbl.

1446881	"SA/NM", bbl. "NM7791414", adj. st., slide NM7791435
1461416	"SA/SA/NM" marked, bbl. NM7791414, Ithaca slide marked "1416"
1490637	
1515256	"T" marked, alum. trigger
1517860	"SA/NM"
1570853	
1585828	
1591865	
1596659	
1598975	
1601520	
1645062	
1827091	smooth strap, FJA inspected, ?
1838253	
1855136	
1856598	"SA/NM", Colt NM7791435 slide, Triangle rear st.
1861180	"SA/NM" and "T", alum. trigger, "FJA" insp., No. prefix
1918033	
1919012	"SA/NM", Rem. slide, NM726771 bushing, NM7790313 bbl., s/n bbl.
1958915	

1965709	No "T", smooth strap, "FJA"
2010019	No "T" mark
2016646	"SA/NM", NM7791414, NM7791435
2037809	Rem. slide, BoMar st.
2048998	
2081039	"1039" on the rt. rear of slide
2091301	No "T", "FJA" small
2088307	"SA/NM" and "T" marked, ckrd. strap
2105044	
2137069	
2139146	
2146880	"SA/NM", NM7791414, NM7791435
2164309	Rem. Rand slide, NM st.
2164321	alum. trigger
2166556	"SA/NM", bbl. NM7791414, slide NM7791435, bush. NM7267718, adj. st.
2166664	
2167490	
2196110	
2198736	
2201738	?
2201879	"SA/NM", bbl. NM7791414, Triangle rear st., Colt slide NM7791485,

2209305	"SA/SA/NM", Rem. slide, bbl. NM7791414, bush. NM7267718, adj. st.
2210842	NM?
2213047	No "SA/NM", stpl. strap, mil. trigger, walnut stocks
2213048	Rem. Rand slide, NM st., polished chamber (no marks)
2213055	No "T", stpl strap, stl. target trigger, Triangle st., staigt serrations on slide
2213056	No "SA/NM" or "T", Rem slide, No bbl. mark, "FJA" insp.
2213136	
2213281	
2213292	No "SA/NM", Rem. slide
2213267	NM?
2217616	Not "SA/NM", stpl. strap
2196608	"SA/SA/NM", Micro sight, bbl. NM7791414, slide NM7791435, bbl. w/s/n
2220989	No "T", smooth strap, "FJA"
2223922	smooth strap, ?
2250312	
2257059	No "T", smooth strap, "GHD"-L
2259439	not NM

2260378	Micro st., no "SA/NM", Colt WWII slide
2266714	not NM
2310608	Colt slide, NM st., polished chamber (no markes)

2347502	No "T", "GHD"-L
2353028	Smooth strap, "GHD"-L, ?
2389562	"SA/NM"
2400695	slide "NM7791414"

2443468	
2626813	
2657598	bbl. "NM7790313"

COLT SERVICE MODEL ACE .22LR, Parkerized finish, "G.H.D." inspected
Possible Coast Guard use.

SM6043	SM7357	SM8881	SM10344
SM6300	SM7704	SM9555	SM10889
SM6305	SM7884	SM9731	
SM6694	SM8167	SM10231	

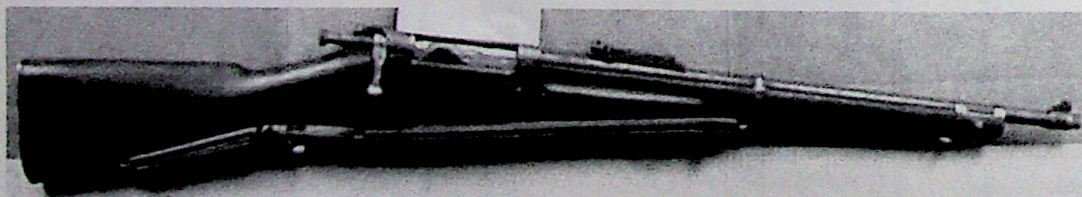
Note: markings on 5 of the right front section of the frame-above the trigger guard bow: "JB", "E361", "E371", "G002", "D/083".
I don't know the meanings of these non-factory markings.

HIGH STANDARD SUPERMATIC CITATION .22LR PISTOLS, blue finish, no martial markings, unknown barrel
lengths.: 861006, 1025533, 1306783

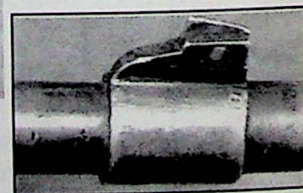
Reported, and discovered at the California National Guard Armory, in Bakersfield California on 4/30/01:

Colt Woodsman .22: s/n 6020, 66498, 117055, 119609

Colt .22 Ace: s/n 1083, 1299, 3043, 3319, 6137, 7219, 7662, 8655



Cut-down Krags Recently Sold at CMP



USMC Unertl-Scoped Rifles Revisited

by Clark S. Campbell with Larry Reynolds

In the course of a rather long life, much of which has been misspent in putting together and refining a definitive account of the role of the "Springfield" in the development of modern riflery. I have been constantly amazed by the ever-increasing availability of documentation from archives not previously reasonably accessible. And it is on documentation that one must ultimately rely in determining the what, when, why, and how of any particular rifle configuration of the past.

This is, I submit, the case regarding the little-known No. 10 sights of the U.S.M.C. M1903s (about which more at some other time, perhaps), and *particularly* regarding the Marines' Unertl-scoped sniper's rifles.

I first learned of the Unertl-scoped rifles from a USMC "Gunny" prominent in small-arms circles just in time to include his rough description of same in my 1971 book. For my 1994 revision, *The '03 Era*, I was able to incorporate new material from having interviewed MGunnery Sergeant John K. MacDonald, who supervised the assembly of these rifles in Philadelphia, and to incorporate information derived from documents retrieved from Marine Corps archives by Ken Kogan. Now Frank Mallory has retrieved from the National Archives virtually all documentation relating to USMC WWII sniper's programs and has made it available as "Copies of Official USMC Correspondence on Sniper Rifles" for \$25.50 postpaid.

(Study of that documentation discloses that the 40 rifles assembled "for test and training" really were M1903s and that their "Lyman 5A" scopes were actually Winchester A5s left over from WWI. It discloses that the selection of a rifle and scope for WWII snipers was given to target-range personnel and resulted in the selection of the Unertl 8x scope, to be mounted on the Winchester Model 70, catalog no. G70440, with Lyman iron sights, an outfit adopted [presumably as the MC, M1941 as the "Gunnys" associated "M1941" with sniper's rifles] but

never assembled for service).

In addition to the USMC correspondence cited above, Frank has now supplied, for this article, a listing of USMC rifle-related requisitions through 1941, that, combined with other sources of information, is now sufficient to form a reasonably accurate detailing of just what the '03-based Unertl-sighted rifles were (other than what iron sights they had) *before* those of them that survived WWII were reconditioned for Korea and the ones surviving that war reworked with whatever parts as shootable rifles for sales disposal to Marines in 1954.

Those other sources now available include: yearly listings of Springfield Armory's parts production in Brophy's *Arsenal of Freedom*; the Ordnance directive of late 1940 that required Springfield to send '03 reconditioning "elsewhere"; Larry Reynolds' info on some extant Unertl-based rifles, to include one with a Style S stock numbered under its "small" with the 1939-vintage receiver's last 4 digits; Senich's pictures of Style S-stocked Unertl-sighted rifles in combat; and Larry's photograph of the 1937 USMC Rifle Team in which photo the two rifles visible are M1903s with polished actions.

The first and foremost piece of information derived from these sources is that the USMC yearly requisitioned National Match rifles from Springfield Armory as "Rifle Team Equipment". They got 1,425 M1903(NM) and (assuming that the 1931 requisition was for a fairly typical 150) 1,426 M1903A1(NM) rifles from 1920 through 1940 (as well as 6 Style T rifles); and in July, 1942, they reported as having available as complete rifles 473 "M1903 national match" and 574 "M1903 special target", a figure that undoubtedly included the Style T rifles as well as a number of rifles equipped with Winchester A5 scopes in taper mounts, which leads to the conclusion that the M1903 rifles acquired each year were divided half-and-half — half for Service Rifle matches and half modified with

Lyman 48C and 17A sights for NRA matches. The older acquisitions, having been shot-out in Matches, subsequent Team tryouts, and Team practice were broken-down into actions and stocks and placed separately into Team Equipment stores. Stocks cut for the Lyman 48C were obviously not suitable, and receivers with unplugged drilled and tapped holes were undoubtedly not used for rifles to be used in the field (an assertion strongly supported by the fact that, of the 36 rifles of 1935 through 1940 vintage that Larry has listed, all would have been "national match" and none the "special target" that had receivers drilled and tapped). So there were available from Team Equipment 1,450 NM actions and 713 pistol grip stocks — D1836 ("C") produced 1929 through 1935, and D35379 (NM) produced 1936 through FY 1940. The D1836 stocks would necessarily have been stamped with the D.A.L. cartouche of Daniel A. Leary, the only Final Inspector at Springfield during the '29 to '35 time period. The D35379 stocks actually used on NM rifles from 1936-on had the drawing number and rifle receiver number stamped ahead of the butt swivel, as well as the SA rework cartouche adopted by Springfield for post-'35 NM rifles, that of Chief Inspector Stanley P. Gibbs.

All the NM actions presumably, like all those Larry has seen, had had the upper surfaces of their guards ground-down by the Philadelphia armorers to insure no contact with the receiver bottoms, and the numbered bolts of the first 473 actions that were used for the sniper's rifles — those of the "national match" rifles — had been "blued" in anticipation of such use.

Assembly of the M3-based Unertl-scoped sniper's rifles was initiated 6 Jan 43 when the Commandant approved the recommendation of the C.G., 1st Marine Amphibious Corps, that a telescope-equipped sniper's rifle be adopted. An initial 1,000 scopes were ordered from Unertl, work was begun on drilling and tapping the barreled actions of the 473 "national match" rifles for scope blocks, and orders presumably placed with woodworking shops for WWII-contractor-produced handguards modified for front scope block clearance, all known handguards for the Unertl-scoped rifles being of WWII configuration.

That the Marines intended that their rifles would have the same Style S stocks as used throughout the Corps, and that the first of the rifles assembled and issued did have Style S stocks (as had had the 40 rifles "for test and

training") is evidenced not only by Senich's photos but in documentary form by the Commandant's endorsement to a letter from the Scout Sniper School at Camp Lejeune, dated 12 May 43, that suggested changes to the rifles, scopes, and scope mounts that had been issued to them. The basic letter is missing; but the Commandant's endorsement exists. In it, he approved the recommended changes and added the directive that 'Type "C" stocks should be provided if available',

These first rifles, how many of which were assembled is not known, were fitted with scope mounts having 1/4 minute clicks. Their Style S stocks, assuming the one cited above as having been viewed by Larry is an example, were without Inspector's cartouches, indicating that they were fresh stocks drawn from the supply of 4,000 stocks made by Springfield in 1941 especially for the USMC at the time Springfield was changing from "S" stock to "C" stock production.

The recommendation that future scope mounts provide 1/2 minute "clicks" (vice 1/4 minute) was incorporated into mount production by mid-Dec. 1943.

The transition to "C" stocks directed by the Commandant was, of course, quickly accomplished by drawing on the 713 "national match" (without being too concerned with matching their numbers, on rifle reassembly, to the receivers mated to them) pending receipt of a supply of "C" stocks from Springfield, where 73,793 had been produced by mid-1942 and an unknown but goodly number more by mid-1943. These later stocks were unmarked except by an "S" in the cutoff recess. As to the varnished wood; in view of the fact that all those rifles obviously made from the "national match" stocks then on hand were not varnished, whereas Larry's rifle, assembled *later* from NM stocks and receivers in stores *was* varnished, as was the *unmarked* stock (with handguard) that I once had, I now speculate that varnishing of wood came later, perhaps as experience in the field demonstrated dampness there as being a real problem with swelling of the wood.

Once all of the 473 suitable NM barreled actions (1935 through 1940 production) had been assembled into sniper's rifles, assembly continued with 297 of the 977 useable NM actions from stores.

Bolts were "blued" and the "Hatcher" receiver gas port added and corresponding bolt gas hole enlarged on the

older actions. These actions were then fitted with barrels selected by stargage from those in stores. That MacDonald was undoubtedly substantially correct in his recall that the barrels used were "dated from 1922 onwards" is evidenced by the record of USMC requisitions of 10,000 in 1920 and another 48,000 from 1925 through 1930 (along with 10,000 barreled receivers in 1930). Those barrels selected (4 or 5 out of 100) were, according to MacDonald, "marked". This would certainly have been with the stargage "star", but these barrels would not have had the stargage number applied as on Springfield's stagaged barrels.

The Marines never gave these rifles a Model number, perhaps being wary of committing to a target scope instead of a hunting scope, but referred to them in all USMC correspondence as Rifle, (sniper's), Cal-iber .30. M1903A1, w/Telescope, Sighting, Unertl, 8x.

The Marine Raider Battalion's report of their action in New Georgia of June through August of 1943 assessed the Unertl-scoped rifles as "having no value." Also, Recommendations from 2nd Division condemn "Unertl" and commend "Weaver". These assessments prompted G-4, in his memo of 11 Feb 44, to "Recommend cancellation of unfilled portion of Unertl contract", and to suggest that available M1903A4s "will provide what scoped rifles we need." Whereupon the Commandant, in his letter of 16 Feb 44 to the Quartermaster, said;

"1. - The Unertle (*sic*), 8x, sniper telescope has not proved effective in combat. Accordingly you are requested to cancel existing contracts for this item. Upon exhaustion of depot stocks of Unertl telescopes, please take steps to substitute the rifle U.S. cal. .30, M1903A4 (Snipers) equipped with Sight, Telescopic Assembly (Weaver 330C)."

Although the Commandant, in his Depres-sion-era "make-do-with" mind-set, had directed that all Unertls were to be used up before acquisition of A4s, the QM set aside all unassembled Unertl-rifle components and acquired M1903A4s, 1,000 of which were then available. So just 770 Unertl-scoped '03-based rifles were assembled at this time.

During the course of the next fourteen months of combat, the M1903A4 became the standard by which

the value of the Cal. .30. M1C sniper's rifle would be judged when tests were conducted in April 1945 by the Marine Corps Equipment Board. With the prospect of the adoption of a rifle more compat-ible with the Cal...30, M1 rifles with which the Marines were by then armed, the Quartermaster requested authority "to dispose of as excess property without reimbursement all sniper rifles, scopes, carrying cases, and sets of mounting blocks remaining on hand." This prompted inquiry of Fleet Marine Force Pacific "regarding retention of a scope-fitted sniper's rifle." Commanding General, FMF Pac, responded on 7 July 45 that a sniper's rifle was required in all Divisions, and recommended that such "be issued on the basis of 108 per Marine Division."

Whereupon the Commandant disapproved the QM's request for disposal of Unertl-rifle components and had an allowance of "108 per Mar Div when required" added to the Table of Allowances, to be "stocked in service command depots ... and issued to Marine Divisions when authorized by the Commanding General. Fleet Marine Force, Pacific." With M1903A4s long out of production, and perhaps being unsure that the M1C had yet been tested thoroughly enough, he had the rifles called for to be Unertl-scoped M1903A1s, though he directed that he be informed "when present stocks of Rifle, (Sniper's) ... become depleted in order that another type of sniper rifle now under consideration may be authorized for procurement." He then informed the CG, Department of the Pacific, that "It is expected that the M1C rifle will be adopted when present stocks of the M1903A1 Rifle are depleted."

There were then on hand 975 Unertl scopes and "Approximatey 800 rifles, U.S., Cal..30, M1903A1 in depot stocks which either have mounting blocks assembled thereto or have been set aside for use as sniper rifles." of these 800 or so, 680 would have been assembled with the last of the 1,450 suitable National Match actions and 120 or so with ordinary actions — actions John MacDonald recalled as having been polished, etc, by his crew. One can only speculate that the best source for such actions, one from which he could select NS receivers to allow drilling and tapping without having to grind through a hard surface skin, would have been from the 50,000 or so M1903s from ROTC and Guard units presumably allotted the USMC in 1942 to replace the 50,000 reconditioned M1917 rifles taken from the Corps for Lend Lease (see

"Uncle Sam's Sedgleys" in USMAC No 94).

But there were only six Marine Divisions in the Pacific. So only 648 would have been assembled. These would be the last sniper's rifles issued to the Marines in WWII.

Those sniper rifles surviving WWII were reconditioned at Quantico and at Camp Pendleton and subsequently evaluated vs. Cal. .30, M1C rifles "under combat conditions" in Korea, where the Unertl was rated "excellent but only during broad daylight", whereas the M1C's M81 scope was rated "excellent, especially during the hours of daybreak and dusk." (The M1C was recommended for adoption; but, following tests of all hunting-type scopes available, the Cal. .30. M1 rifle with 4x STITH scope in modified G&H side mount was made STANDARD as "Rifle, sniper's, MC, M1952".)

CHECKLIST RE RIFLE CONFIGURATIONS AS ISSUED

(before any reconditioning):

IN GENERAL

- All receivers and bolts modified as required with "Hatcher" gas port and enlarged bolt hole. No receivers drilled and tapped for Lyman 48C.
- Actions polished as per National Match, bolts numbered and presumably all "blued".
- All guards presumably ground on upper surfaces to ensure clearance from receiver bottom.
- All barrels drilled and tapped at Philadelphia (not barrels replaced elsewhere in reconditioning) had presumed fixturing prick mark on bottom below block location. Barrels selected and fitted at Philly had "star" but no stargage mark.
- All scope blocks had the hole in side to accommodate Winchester mounts.
- All stocks had course-checked NM buttplate.
- All handguards WWII commercial manufacture with straight windage knob cut.
- All scopes with center dot on crosshairs.
- Dark varnish on stock and handguard, presumably

field applied in damp operations areas.

SPECIFICALLY:

- Original assembly (of perhaps 100?) from NM35 through NM40 rifles with Springfield's star gage number on barrel. Fresh Style S stocks unmarked except with last 4 digits of receiver number under the "small". Scope mounts with ¼ minute "clicks". Scopes numbered from 1000 up.
- Next 373(?) (473 - 100?) assembled from NM35 rifles with D1836 ("C") stocks with D.A.L. cartouche and D35379 ("NM") stocks with drawing number and rifle number ahead of butt swivel and SA/SPG cartouche — the stock number not necessarily matching that of the receiver. S.A. stargage number on barrels. Scope mounts probably with ½ minute "clicks" toward end of assembly of these rifles. Scopes numbered from something like 1100 through 1473.
- The last of the 770 assembled in 1943 and early 1944 used 297 of the NM actions from stores. These actions were NM20 through NM31. Barrels, SA20 and SA25 through SA30, were given the stargage "star" but no stargage number. Scope mounts ½ minute. Stocks: the 335 or so remaining from NM rifles, with cartouches as noted above, followed by freshly made Springfield-produced "C" stocks without any marks other than an "s" in the cutoff recess and, perhaps, the last 4 digits of the receiver number. Scopes presumably in the range of 1474 through 2371.
- The last 648, assembled in 1945, would have first used the 680 rifles that had been assembled with the available NM actions, those with standard actions (probably NS) that John MacDonald had rendered indistinguishable from NM actions as used on the other rifles not being needed. Barrels SA20 or SA25 through SA30, with stargage "star" but no stargage number. "C" stocks of Springfield manufacture without proof or Inspector's cartouche. Scopes presumably anywhere from 1761 through 2775 (25 lost in tests, process, etc.). 4



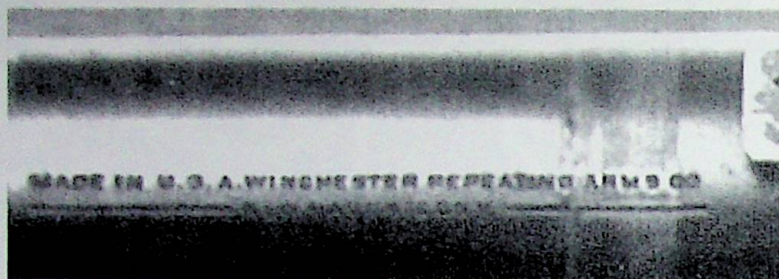
The Marine Rifle Team that carried off the National Rifle Trophy by winning the National Rifle Team Match, the most important match fired at Camp Perry. Seated, left to right: Capt. William W. Davidson, Capt. Maurice L. Shively, Maj. William J. Whaling, Maj. Gen. Thomas Holcomb (Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps), Chief Marine Gunner Calvin A. Lloyd, Lt. David S. McDougal, Gunnery Sgt. Thomas J. Jones. Standing: Edward V. Seeser, Raymond D. Chaney, William D. Linfoot, James R. Tucker, Valentine J. Kravitz, Claude N. Harris, Malcolm J. Holland, Wilbur L. Jessup, and Victor F. Brown.

1937 U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Team (from August, 1937, MARINE CORPS GAZETTE)

Closeup below shows M1903 rifles with polished bolts, Style S (non-pistol grip) stocks.



LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE



Wayne P. Gagner

Collecting 1903 SPRINGFIELDS always brings surprises and a never ending parade of weapons and accessories. The Winchester Springfields that were made prior to the Winchester Company development of bolt action high power rifles are among the rarest and least known 1903 rifles.

The Model 54 rifle was developed after Winchester initiated a program that used United States Springfield Armory actions and modified stocks. This activity met the demands of hunters and target shooters who had become accustomed to the fine capabilities of the 1903 rifle and other military weapons. Winchester used this experience and developed a series of rifles that are still in production today as the Model 70. Reliance on a government source and partial production of an entire rifle doomed the program, but the design, characteristics, ammunition, and quality gave the company a good start in their very successful bolt action rifle production.

I had the opportunity to own a Winchester 1903 during the late '60s and thought that there was a never-ending source of all variations of the 1903. I sold the rifle to Bill Brophy and later found out that there were only 3 rifles that were known to exist. It haunted me for years to see the rifle in Bill's book on the 1903, and I never thought I would be able to find my old rifle or the present owner.

This memory was jolted by a strike of lightning

when I was offered a Winchester 1903 with the original Winchester stock, barrel, and all of the Springfield 1903 parts and accessories. I must say, it only took me several minutes to agree to buy the weapon and pay for it. I am most fortunate in having owned two of these very sought-after rifles.

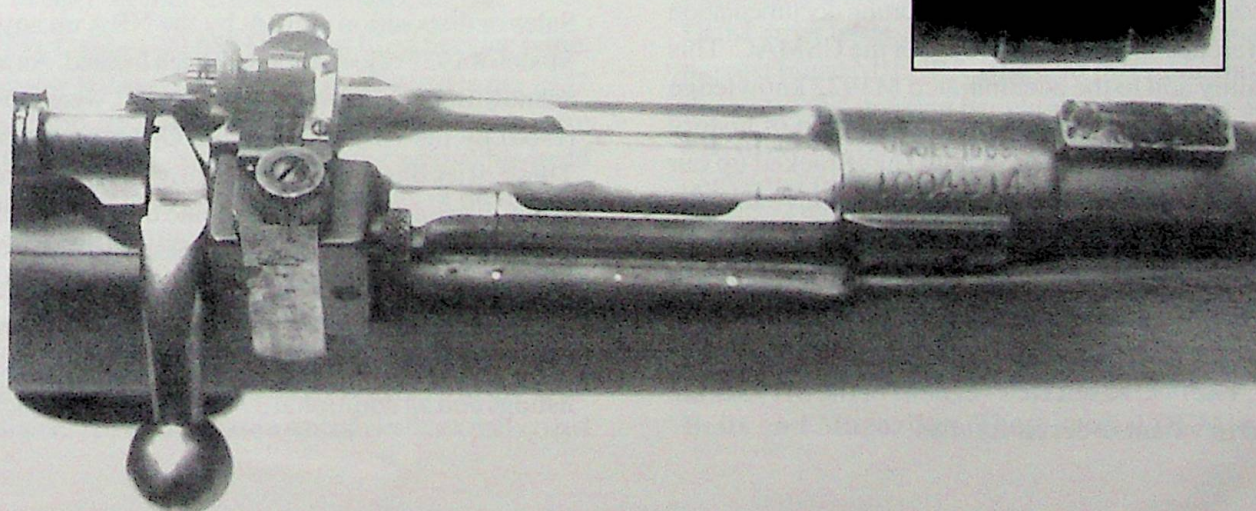
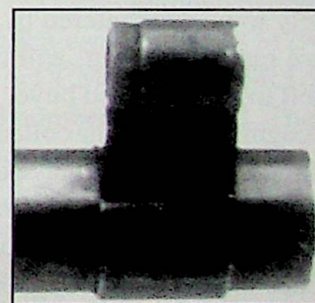
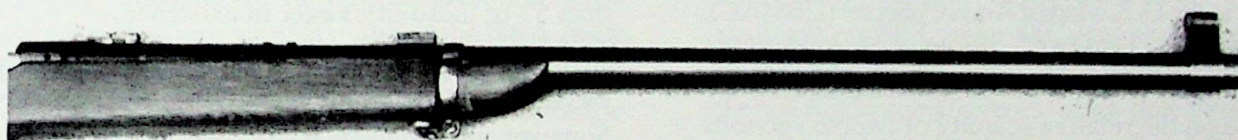
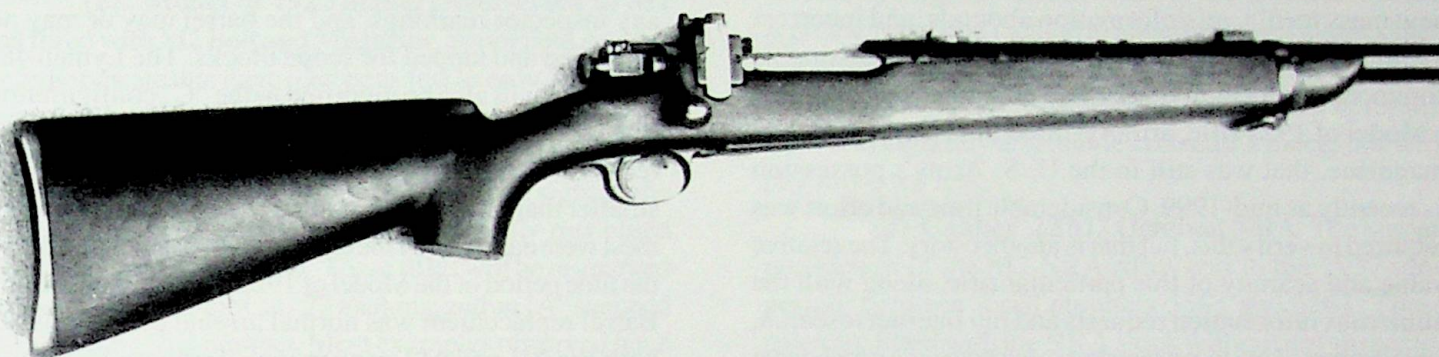
My current Winchester 1903 has a heavy bull barrel that is 28 inches in length, 7/8 inch at the muzzle, and 1 1/8" at the breech. It is Winchester marked and has the 30 GOVT 06 inscription on the barrel. The front sight base is similar to the later T models with a heavy band that is shorter than the BAR front sight base modified by Springfield Armory for the T and International models. The stock is a similar design to the International but has no cross bolts, a longer and higher comb, and is recessed for the T model type band. The band is made the same way as the T model with welded parts from 1917 Enfield bands. The buttplate is a standard T model shotgun type and has no assembly numbers commonly seen on NRA Sporters, T models, and other Springfield rifles. The finish is the old Winchester blue, and the bolt is polished bright. The trigger is a very early Springfield with an additional screw adjustment assembly. The rifle was used with a Unertl 8X scope and has the two bases placed at the common 7.2 inch spacing for external sight adjustments. Original guns of the 1920 era used Winchester blocks and scopes for target use, and the bases are interchangeable with those for the Unertl scopes. There are two extra holes

drilled between the 2 bases.

Sights include the Lyman 48 model receiver sight that is used on 1922 rifles and the later T models and sporters. The front sight is a Lyman with no markings which fits into the dovetail on the front base.

The rifle has been well cared for with excellent bore and original stock and metal finish. I have owned the Remington version used in early Olympics, Springfield T models, and many others, but the Winchester has

a unique air that makes it special. Lightning has struck twice, and I feel quite fortunate to have been able to correct a past sales mistake. I hope all collectors can experience a similar situation where they can obtain a special rifle. Even with us passing into year 2001 and 98 years since Springfield made the first 1903, there are still extraordinary rifles that become available to those that look for them. ♣



U.S. Springfield Armory M1922 Family of Caliber .22 Rifles

Collector Update Notes

LCDR Frederick M. EWALT USN (Retired) East Killingly, Connecticut
(fmewalt@prodigy.net)

In the past few months, I have received numerous requests by E-mail and telephone, for information and help on evaluating various examples of the Springfield Armory M1922 rifles. I recently completed several in-depth "surfing runs" to some of the popular Internet sites including forums for military collector firearms and corresponding auctions. The results of this research indicates to me that within this new mass media, misinformation abounds, and incorrect identification of type, plus just plain false advertising, is commonplace for the M1922s. Early last year, I also acquired a Model of 1922 rifle, armory-fitted with the MI bolt and magazine, that was still in the U. S. Army's possession as recently as mid-1999. Considerable time and effort was required to verify this, but that is another story. The relative value and scarcity of this particular rifle, along with the numerous information requests and my Internet research, have prompted me to put together some notes as a supplement to update my comprehensive article on the M1922s. This was published in the U. S. Martial Arms Collector (USMAC), #81 of July 1997. The USMAC is the quarterly Springfield Research Service (SRS) Newsletter. The emphasis in this update will be on the relative scarcity of twelve versions of the M1922 rifles, including the key identification factors, for rifles likely to be encountered by today's collectors. Value or price range, however, will not be covered and this will be left to the informed buyer to sort out with the seller. It is recognized that some collectors may well have a different opinion from those expressed herein, particularly with respect to numbers. They are sincerely encouraged to submit their opinions, including supporting documentation and/or reference sources to the editor of the USMAC. This will certainly add to the accumulated M1922 knowledge base and also help to prevent the re-invention of history when those of us now "in-the-know" have racked up our rifles for the last time. Many collectors believe that the original Model of 1922 rifle is the scarcest of all the versions, BUT this is actually NOT the case. My research has indicated that only the two armory modified versions of the Model of 1922 are the least likely to be encountered by the average collector. The twelve selected versions of the M1922s are discussed in extant order as follows:

(1). **Model of 1922 armory refitted with MI Bolt and Magazine.** This rifle will NOT be re-marked on the receiver, and will otherwise resemble the original. The finish will be "armory browned", which is a "rust blued" process, and the bolt well will be bright. In all probability the barrel will have been replaced with one dated 1926 or later. These rifles are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings, and the barrel may or may not be drilled and tapped for scope blocks. The Lyman 48B rear sight will also be modified to the "C" configuration. The new MI bolts may or may not be numbered to the receiver. Original Model of 1922 rifle barrel bores were smaller than the M1922 MI and M2 bores by .0005, and most were damaged by the corrosive .22 ammunition during the time period of the Model of 1922 in-service evaluation. Barrel replacement was normal arsenal practice during both the MI and M2 conversions. Springfield Armory records indicate that there may be only from 12 to no more than 52 of these rifles ever in existence.

Total production for the Model of 1922 was reported by Army Ordnance as 2,025 rifles. Very few collectors, however, understand that the balance of the costs for the manufacture of these rifles was funded by the NRA, in cooperation with the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM). The Model of 1922 rifles were intended for both sales to NRA members and transfer to DCM sponsored rifle clubs to replace the "Winder Muskets". At least 1,900 Model of 1922 rifles were originally shipped throughout 1922, by the Ordnance Department, directly to the NRA. Sales or disposition records by the NRA on any of these Model of 1922 rifles have never been located. An additional unknown number, probably less than 100, were subsequently resold by the NRA back to the Ordnance Department. These rifles plus the 125 rifles originally retained by the Army, were employed to evaluate the rifle for in-service use. When the evaluation was completed in 1924, a significant number of the Army's Model of 1922 rifles were repaired by Springfield Armory and then released to the DCM. The SRS database has records for about 87 DCM sales listings and an additional 37 entries for either service use

by military units or DCM rifle club issues. In addition, 14 of the Army's Model of 1922 receivers were used to assemble 12 Model of 1924 Caliber .22 International Match Rifles, and 2 prototype Caliber .22 "Outdoor Match Rifles". This accounts for 138 government rifles. Springfield Armory records also show for Model of 1922 government-owned rifles, that in the late 1920s time frame, 52 were repaired and fitted with the M1 bolt and magazine. Whether any of the 37 service-listed rifles were included in the 52 is unknown. In 1935, 30 rifles, most likely including some from the 52 above, were converted to M2 configuration. There are no known ordnance records for armory M1 or M2 modifications, although possible, for any privately owned Model of 1922 rifles.

(2). **Model of 1922 armory-converted to M2 and fitted with M2 Bolt and Magazine.** Springfield Armory records indicate that there may be as few as only 30 of these rifles ever in existence. The M2 conversion work consisted of replacing both the original Model of 1922 bolt and magazine with the M-2 types, modifying the Lyman 48 sight to the "C" configuration, and refinishing previously rust blued metal parts with parkerizing. These rifles will be re-marked with a "M2" next to the Cal. .22 marking, and an "A" stamped just after the serial number. Most examples observed have been rebarreled with a barrel dated 1935 or later. The bolt wells are parkerized and NOT bright. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. The armory also replaced the NRA stock with the new M2 service issue type stock. The stocks will be marked on the left side of the butt with "SA" in a rectangle open at the bottom, over either an "O" or "R". Some stocks may also have the circle "P" proof mark. The 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48C rear sight generally will NOT match up. The top of the barrel at the breech end may also have a small stamped letter "L". A few of these rifles are reported to have retained the NRA stock, and one has been observed with a M1922 service issue M1 "B" stock. These few stock differences may well be collector modifications.

(3). **Caliber .22 M2 Original First Service Issue.** When the new M2 service rifle was first issued in the 1932 - 34 time frame, approximately the first 3,800 rifles were fitted with a bolt that did NOT have the adjustable head space function. Army Ordnance recalled all of these rifles in the late 1934 - 35 time frame and refitted them with the revised bolt design, having adjustable head space. Only a handful, perhaps as few as 35, escaped this modification. This number 35, is the total of the early serial numbers listed in the SRS database, as sold by the DCM in the 1932 - 34 time frame. These rifles have a smooth jet black parkerized

finish. Barrels are NOT drilled and tapped for scope blocks, the bolt wells are bright, and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48C rear sight match up. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. None of the original issue earlier M2s have any significant inspector marks or cartouches on the newly-designed M2 service issue stock. A few may have a M2 on the bottom of the pistol grip and a drawing number on the bottom of the butt, just forward of the butt swivel. There are also NO arsenal marks on the modified rifles to indicate the new bolt change. There are perhaps many earlier M2s in circulation with the original bolt style that may have been "collector restored". Careful examination of the degree of workmanship in the serial numbering of the bolt and a check with a head space gauge may help to identify original versus restored. A DCM sales record is probably the best method to identify one versus the other. A modified early M2, below serial number 3800, without the early bolt, is not considered an overhauled or rebuilt rifle. It is certainly a valuable collector's piece, but why pay more for less.

(4). **Caliber .22 M2 Original NRA.** The known production of the M2 NRA rifles was in the 1937 time period, between serial numbers 5581 and 6561. These rifles are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings, barrels are drilled and tapped for scope blocks, all are parkerized, the bolt wells are bright, and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48C rear sight match up. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. All known examples have the bolt headspace adjustment screw hole filled with "white's metal" and the Ordnance Flaming Bomb Icon is stamped into this. Most of the serial numbers in the range were NOT used for the NRA version. The 77 M2NP rifle serial numbers recorded as DCM sales in the SRS database may represent the total number assembled. The Springfield Armory records seem to indicate that during the 1937 - 1940 time period, M2 NRA rifles, as well as other DCM purchases, were very likely on an assembly by in-house DCM order basis; and NRA member preference was for the rust blued M11 NRA rifles. At this same time period, there was an adequate backlog at the armory of M1922 M1 NRA rifles fitted with the M2 bolt and magazine and/or converted to M11 to meet sales requests. Let the buyer beware, because there are numerous M2s as NRA "look alike" rifles in circulation, claimed to be NRA versions. The DCM sales record is the only safe method to identify a correct example.

(5) **M1922M1 NRA armory fitted with M2 Bolts and Magazines.** These special DCM sales rifles

are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings, barrels are drilled and tapped for scope blocks, all are rust blued, the bolt wells are bright, and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48 sight match up. They are NOT re-marked on the receiver with either a "MII" or a "B" after the serial number. There are no reported rifles in this category with the first variation of MI receiver markings. Known serial numbers range from 19330 to 20834 but not all numbers in this range were assembled as this variation. Sales are recorded for these rifles in the 1935 to 37 time period. Some are known to have been assembled from parts on hand as late as 1937 and may have corresponding barrel dates. Some may also have both a MI and M2 bolt, and MI and M2 magazine, each bolt numbered to the receiver. There are 87 recorded DCM sales in the SRS database, but Springfield Armory records indicate that a total of about 200 may have been assembled. Survival rate for all types of DCM sales rifles is very high and 100 or more of these rifles may still be in existence. Collector reproduction for this variation is probably unlikely. There is always a remote possibility that an original MI NRA previous owner, within the serial number range of this variation, may have obtained a M2 bolt and magazine, had these parts fitted by a gunsmith, and both the MI and M2 parts are offered in a sale. Physical examination, and/or a 1935 - 37 barrel date is the best method to identify this rifle since not all known examples have a DCM sales record in the SRS database.

(6). **Model of 1922 MI - M1922MI Original Service Issue.** These rifles will have bright bolt wells and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48C rear sight match up. The majority will be rust blued, but some low and very high serial numbers will be jet black parkerized. All will be mounted in the M1922 "B" style service issue stock without any inspector markings, with original type MI bolts and magazines, and barrels are NOT drilled and tapped for scope mounts. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. Total production of the MI service issue was approximately 16000+ rifles, from 1924 through 1931. Only a very few, probably less than 1% of these rifles may have escaped the M2 conversion program, which most likely also includes most of the MI service issue type rifles sold through the DCM. Serial number 167 is the first known DCM service type sales rifle. The highest number listed is serial number 19876. Some of the MI service rifle entries in the SRS database, however, are known to be MI NRA rifles. A number of MI NRA rifles mounted in a "B" stock, claimed to be service issue, are in circulation in collecting circles. The number of original MI service issue rifles probably still in existence is unknown,

but statistical analysis indicates that it would most likely be less than 350. Restoration, because of the receiver remarks, is very unlikely with this variation; and physical examination is the best method to identify this rifle. Not all known examples have a DCM sales record in the SRS database.

(7). **Model of 1922 NRA Original.** These rifles are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings, barrels are NOT drilled and tapped for scope blocks, all the rifles are rust blued, the bolt wells are bright, and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48B rear sight match up. Bolts are NOT numbered to the receiver. A very few of the first NRA stocks may have grasping grooves, which has nothing to do with service issue. These were removed at the NRA's request to facilitate checkering the forend. The issues of drilled and tapped barrels, and stock grasping grooves, has been resolved in past volumes of the USMAC, but the misinformation on what is "original" still persists. The "original condition" survival rate for both the NRA and DCM sales of Model of 1922 rifles may be 50% or less. Perhaps only 900 or so original arsenal condition, un-modified Model of 1922 rifles are still in existence. Many privately owned Model of 1922 rifles were "gunsmith" drilled and tapped for telescope mounts. Stocks were checkered or modified for sporting use. MI bolts and magazines may have been private owner installed on many rifles. Parts in the 1920s time frame were readily available through the DCM. The Lyman 48B rear sights were also updated with the "48C" elevation and windage knobs to provide ¼ minute adjustment clicks. Some rifle barrels were also replaced because bores were damaged by the corrosive .22 ammunition of the time period. Original rifle barrels have been observed, with bores "bored out" and then repaired by insertion of a .22 caliber liner. This can be very difficult to spot. Restoration, because of parts availability, however, is very unlikely with this variation. Physical examination is the best method to identify this rifle. I consider this rifle as the best product, for the entire family of M1922s, to ever come out of Springfield Armory. This and an original MI service rifle are the two most collector sought-after M1922 type rifles, and correspondingly difficult to locate. Modified, non-original Model of 1922 rifles, however, are certainly valuable collector pieces, and a worthwhile addition to any collection, but be careful what you pay for.

(8). **Model of 1922 MI - M1922MI Original NRA.** These DCM sales rifles are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings, drilled and tapped for scope blocks, the bolt wells are bright, and the 3 piece

numbers on the Lyman 48 rear sight match up. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. These rifles are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings. Rifles manufactured specifically for DCM sales are rust blue finished. It is estimated that well over half of the production total of these rifles were for issue to DCM sponsored rifle teams and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at various colleges and universities. A close number range for either type has never been determined, but a logical estimate is about 2000 for DCM sales and 2700 for team and ROTC issue. There are over 1600 recorded DCM sales, and over 500 recorded issues to military units and rifle teams, of MI and MIN rifles in the SRS database. The team and ROTC rifles are finished with black parkerizing. Springfield Armory records record a total of about 4,700 rifles of this variation originally manufactured from 1924 through 1931. Serial numbers have been observed as low as 3520 for MI NRA rifles issued to military units and rifle teams, but the majority, perhaps greater than 75% of the serial numbers, including most of the DCM sales rifles, range from about 7500 up to 20834. Survival rate for original MI NRA DCM sales rifles is considered to be probably better than 75%, and 1,500 or more may still be in circulation. Conversely, only 15% or even less of the ROTC rifles, about 350, may have survived, as most were converted in the 1935 - 38 time frame to the M2 configuration. Restoration, because of lack of parts availability, is very unlikely with this variation. Physical examination is the best method to identify this rifle, since not all known examples have a DCM sales record in the SRS database.

(9). Model of 1922 MI - M1922MINRA Armory converted to M2, fitted with M2 Bolt and Magazine. These rifles are fitted with the NRA stock without any inspector markings, barrels are drilled and tapped for scope blocks, the bolt wells may nor may not be bright, and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48 rear sight may or may not match up. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. Of the MI NRA rifles converted to M2, only about half were overhauled, in addition to the M2 modification. The overhauled rifles will be refinished by parkerizing, and these are the ones likely to have dark bolt wells and mismatched rear sights. All are re-marked on the receiver with either a second "I" stamped next to "MI" so as to read "MII" and a "B" stamped after the serial number. A significant number of these rifles have recorded DCM sales in the SRS database, and these may have a rust blued finish. The majority, however, are M2 converted military unit and ROTC rifles, and these will have a parkerized finish. It is estimated that 2,000 or more may still be in circulation. Both the team and DCM

sales rifles, listed in the SRS database, will usually command a premium of 20% or more in value, over the latter. Restoration, because of both parts unavailability and receiver re-marking, is very unlikely with this variation. Physical examination is the best method to identify this rifle, since not all known examples of either the sales or team rifles are recorded in the SRS database.

(10). Caliber .22 M2 Original Service Issue.

This variation includes all M2 service issue rifles up to about serial number 12500. Barrel dates will normally range up to 1937, with some receivers having a 1942 barrel date. Rifles appearing to be in original condition, having serial numbers as low as 1600, have been observed with '42 barrel dates, that examination has shown are NOT rebuilds, but assembled new, from parts on hand to meet WW2 needs. These rifles are all fitted with the M2 service issue stock. For receivers below about serial number 8000, stocks will normally NOT have any inspector markings except for possibly a small M2 on the bottom of the pistol grip and drawing number forward of the butt swivel. Receivers above about serial number 8000 may be marked with "S.A." in a rectangle, open at the bottom, on the left side of the buttstock, and some also with a short horizontal line stamped under the S.A., but NO other letters. Some may also have a circle "P" mark. The barrel will NOT be drilled and tapped for scope blocks, the bolt wells are bright, and the 3 piece numbers on the Lyman 48 rear sight will match up. Bolts are numbered to the receiver. The finish is black parkerizing. There are no records from which to actually determine the number of these rifles still in existence, but a 90% survival rate and statistical analysis would indicate the probability of about 5,500. Let the buyer beware. Numerous M2 service issue rifles, passed off as original, have been observed with a parkerized bolt well that has obviously been re-polished, stocks with overhaul cartouches sanded off, and mismatched Lyman 48C rear sights. Careful physical examination is the only method to identify this rifle in original condition.

(11). Caliber .22 M2 Overhauled / Rebuilt Service Issue. This variation may include M2 service rifles with serial numbers all the way to as high as 21000, and any combination of barrel date. These rifles will all be fitted with the M2 service issue stock, showing overhaul markings. The stocks will be marked on the left side of the butt with "SA" in a rectangle open at the bottom, over either an "O" or "R". Some stocks may also have the circle "P" proof mark. The top of the barrel at the breech end may also have a small stamped letter "L". Barrels are NOT

drilled and tapped for scope blocks. The bolt wells will be parkerized and almost without exception, the Lyman 48C rear sight will be mismatched. Bolts are usually numbered to the receiver, but mismatched bolts have been observed. Finish may run from grey black to green parkerizing. After WW2, a significant number of M2 barreled actions used as subcaliber devices were assembled into regular service rifles. These rifles are all considered to be in the "overhaul" variation. The serial numbers of most are probably above 12500, but there is no way to differentiate one of these from any other overhauled/rebuilt M2. There are no records from which to actually determine the number of these rifles still in existence, but a 90% survival rate and statistical analysis would indicate the probability of about 8,500. Physical examination is an only method to identify this rifle.

(12). Model of 1922 MII - M1922MII Service Issue. This is probably the most common variation that will encountered by the collector. Serial numbers may range up to over 20000. The M2 conversion work consisted of replacing both the original M1922MI bolt and magazine with the M-2 types, and refinishing all metal with parkerizing. These rifle receiver will be re-marked, changing the "MI" to "MII" and stamping a "B" just after the serial number. Some examples have been observed rebarreled, dated 1935 or later, but most will have original barrels, that are NOT drilled and tapped for scope blocks, The bolt wells are parkerized and NOT bright. Most bolts are correctly numbered to the receiver. Most, but not all of the Lyman 48C rear sights will be mismatched. The Armory also normally replaced the M1922 "B" stock with the new M2 service issue type stock. The stocks will be marked on the left side of the butt with "SA" in a rectangle open at the bottom, over either an "O" or "R". Other arsenal marks have also been observed such as "B.A.W.L.". Some stocks may also have the circle "P" proof mark. The top of the barrel at the breech end may also have a small stamped letter "L". A few of these rifles are reported to have retained the M1922 service issue MI "B" stock. These few stock differences may well be collector modifications. Examples have also been observed with the pistol grip contours of the "B" stock, arsenal modified to resemble that of the M2 service issue stock. There are no records from which to actually determine the number of these rifles still in existence, but a 90% survival rate and statistical analysis would indicate the probability of

over 10,000. Physical examination is an only method to identify this rifle.

Summary. There are two other M1922 variations that would be extremely valuable additions to any collection, but are unlikely to ever be observed except in a museum setting, by the average collector. 14 Model of 1922 receivers and 30 inch heavy target barrels were used at Springfield Armory to assemble 12 Model of 1924 Caliber .22 U. S. Team International Match Rifles, and 2 Caliber .22 NRA Outdoor Match Rifles. The caliber .22 center fire HORNET cartridge was developed in an off-duty status by Springfield Armory personnel. There are at least 5 MI NRA rifles that were made up at Springfield Armory chambered for the .22 HORNET configuration. The serial number for a known example is listed as a DCM sale in 1932, to Remington Arms, Bridgeport, Conn. This rifle was used specifically in the development and testing of HORNET ammunition.

Regardless of the type of variation and whether any rifle went through an arsenal one or more times, Springfield Collectors should realize that ALL versions of the family of M1922 rifles are scarce and valuable. To begin with, only about 45,000 total rifles were manufactured. Springfield Armory records indicate that possibly up to 45% of all rifles issued to military units and rifle teams, about 95% of total production, were overhauled one or more times. There is also a strong possibility that more than 11,000 rifles were also destroyed by the various arsenals in the years just after World War 2. For a liberal estimate of a 90% survival rate, a maximum of only about 31,000 for all types of M1922s would still be in existence. Consider this versus the same survival rate for the more than 40,000 M1903 receivers manufactured just in 1934. This is a fair comparison and most Springfield Collectors generally consider M1903s in the 1934 serial number range as very uncommon. All the M1922 variations can truly be considered scarce, original or otherwise. The market has finally realized this and prices for the rarer variations are reaching well into the range of the caliber .30 NRA Sporters and National Match rifles. For an added bonus, over 2,600 of the M1922 family of rifles are listed in the SRS database, for a ratio of about 1 in 12. Rifles with provenance will command at least a 10% increase in value, over similar unlisted examples. 4

The World War II Remington Model 1903 Rifle

From Myth to "Modified"

By: William R. Hansen

Introduction

Most of the highly regarded M1903 reference books being relied upon today by the martial arms enthusiast lead to the same conclusion: that during the course of World War II (W.W. II), the Remington Arms Company (RA) made four specific variations of the M1903 rifle, namely: the M1903, M1903 Modified, M1903A3, and the M1903A4 (Snipers). Until personal research began to reveal differently, I too accepted this contention. . .and why not? I still regard myself a student on the subject and have the utmost respect for those fine author-historians and their writings. Their works represent the core value of any worthy library and should always remain so. But, as most of us eventually learn, not everything originating from past thought or pronouncement is necessarily so.



Among the first reactions a reader-collector might have to the foregoing is — how can one conclude that an M1903 was never made when "MODEL 1903" is stamped right on the receiver? Undoubtedly that very thought has served to deceive many over the years. But it is well to note that even after this RA-made rifle became officially known as the "*Model 1903 Modified*" on March 10, 1942 (...as commonly thought), all receivers made thereafter were still stamped "MODEL 1903" until the M1903A3 began phasing it out in December 1942.

It was no accident, in the opinion of this writer, that no change occurred in marking the receiver from when original RA rifle assembly operations began in September 1941 until advent of the "A3". It is my contention that the US Ordnance Department (OD) decision to name



*Whether one of the first or last rifles produced within the initial Remington production series, they were not only stamped the same way, but all regarded as the **M1903 Modified**.*

After much research and study, therefore, this author dares to reach a different conclusion.

It now appears factually and technically correct to say that Remington never officially manufactured a M1903 variant, per se. Indeed, from the very beginning of rifle production in September 1941, their so-called M1903 edition was designated "**M1903 Modified**".

the Remington-made M1903 as the **U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903 Modified** occurred no later than the second week of September 1941, before final production and assembly began, and after realization of a significant nomenclature problem precipitated by US preparations in July 1941 to take over the British contract with RA. For the reader not familiar with W. W. II history, RA was under direct contract with the United Kingdom (UK) to make this rifle using leased US Government owned equipment in

storage since W. W. I. Until then, the OD routinely regarded the rifle as the Model M1903A1; but since it was being made under British contrether act, there was no particular US concern with matters of rifle identification or marking at the time.

It was during the period from mid-July through September 1941 that real cognitive awareness set in regarding the effects of two key decision-events that had either already transpired and/or evolved to the point at which there was no going back. These two issues and their corollary effects are discussed in greater detail hereafter, but suffice it to say for the moment: (1) the volume of changes already made necessary to approved Armory component drawings in order to manufacture a Model 1903 with the antiquated Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) tooling had severely negated its identity to then current standards; and, (2). an earlier decision to use the "straight" or "S" stock in place of the current pistol grip "C" stock standard made an M1903A1 altogether technically impossible.

It is well to appreciate during this period, that even though the M1903A1 as standardized on 5 December 1929 had superseded the M1903 more than 10 years previous, the "S" stock continued to be used rather exclusively for military applications in an effort to use up a huge supply of leftover stock blanks in storage from W. W. I. By 1939, however, the M1 Garand had relegated the M1903 to a "Limited Standard" status. And since this new semi-auto had also begun to become available in quantity, both the Services and Ordnance officials were becoming conditioned to the considerable advantages of a pistol grip stock. By then, in other words, no one really wanted to go back to the old style stock. After 1939 and into 1940, refurbished M1903 service rifles were increasingly made to the M1903A1 specifications, including incorporation of many improvements in component development and function made since W. W. I.

The OD was faced with a significant dilemma. They were about to take over a foreign contract nearing final rifle assembly that was being required by regulations to be made and marked according to existing US specifications. But, the rifle being made wouldn't qualify. Already, it

was too severely modified! The reality is that the OD suddenly found itself unavoidably caught between the increasing pressures of war preparedness and some former manufacturing ideal.

In my opinion, it was not an easy decision for those who inherited the tradition of this magnificent old rifle to have to deal with the matter, and they simply couldn't bring themselves to stamp the word "**Modified**" on the receiver. Finally, in what now appears to be a somewhat desperate and non-compliant action, the OD decided to mark the receiver with "**Remington**" only, omitting both **Ilion** as the place of manufacture and the **A1** suffix. It was not only a departure from Drawing requirements, but also a *modified* marking protocol for a "Modified" version of the Model 1903. Literally, it became the "**Model 1903 Modified**" without having to mark it that way. It was an aberrant, spontaneous decision rationalized on a belief this was to be a one-time contract to help out US allies. If it became necessary to continue manufacture of the rifle for US purposes thereafter, a return to the correct drawing standards could hopefully then be made.

Obviously, I find myself disagreeing with the popular and traditional notion that the "**Model 1903 Modified**" nomenclature was officially determined 6 months later on in March 1942, either as a result of numerous additional manufacturing changes subsequently made since the initial inspection shakedown in late November 1941, or being further proposed by RA to hasten production towards a 2,000 per day rifle production objective agreed to with the OD after "Pearl Harbor". That is not to say, however, that the "Model 1903 Modified" nomenclature wasn't being used for the first time in formal contract language pursuant to the March 10, 1942 Rochester Ordnance District (ROD) Contract No. W-740-ORD-2210 / Supplement #3. This new contract consolidated all former Defense-Aid (DA) letter Supplements to date originating under Contract No. DA-W-740-ORD-36. But the act of doing so didn't at all mean that the rifle had a different name or identification prior to then, either.

For reader information, the various contracts with the Ordnance Department, including the Rochester

World War II Rochester Ordnance District - Remington Arms Company <u>Contract: DA-740-ORD-36 (W-740-ORD-2210)</u>			
<u>Contract/Amendment</u>	<u>Approval Date</u>	<u>Number of Rifles Authorized</u>	<u>Cumulative Total</u>
DA-W-740-ORD-36	17 Sept. 1941	134,000	134,000
Supplement #1	24 Nov. 1941	74,000	208,000
Supplement #2	30 Dec. 1941	100,000	308,000
Supplement #3 / W-740-ORD-2210	10 Mar. 1942	200,000	508,000

Ordnance District (ROD), are summarized in the following Table up through 10 March 1942. With execution of this formal contract, RA now had assurances that the US takeover would provide them at least a production equivalent of the 500,000 rifle British contract.

With the passage of time from September 1941 to March 1942, two things had become abundantly clear. First, this rifle was never going to retreat to some hypothetical peacetime standard; and secondly, the need for small arms by the US had escalated far beyond a one-time contract for the UK. With the declaration of war on Japan generating an extreme urgency to fill a US arms deficiency, OD officials were no longer dwelling on any discomfort they may have previously had with the altered nomenclature or **modified** nature of this venerable old relic. The honeymoon was over. It was time to make rifles, not stand on melancholic tradition.

Lastly, I believe there were many credible insiders within both RA and the OD organizations who knew of the foregoing conclusions long before this author did, but for some reason were never taken seriously. They either wrote for posterity, or contributed expert testimony and witness to those who did. Some of their opinions will be cited in the following more comprehensive discourse intended to help convince the reader.

If you're already a believer, you needn't read on. However, if not yet persuaded about a rifle that never happened... except in some abstract sense of its generic origin, then please continue. Oh, and as far as the first production rifles being an exact clone of the W.W. I Rock Island M1903... that too is a refutable presumption better cast into the myth file, in my opinion. While the very early edition did bear a strong resemblance, it was more superficial than real.

The Two Key Decision/Events

When the US War Department finally consented to lease the old M1903 tooling stored at the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) to RA in March 1941, it was under direction from the highest level of decision-making in the United States Government, and for the specific purpose of expediting the supply of small arms to the UK after the Dunkirk debacle of May and June 1940. Notwithstanding US loyalties, the primary contract to manufacture rifles was necessarily a direct transaction between the British and RA, since the US officially remained a neutral, non-combatant nation. Yes, it was a duly sanctioned action, but came before President Roosevelt could consummate his plan for securing from Congress a defense-aid pact destined to become the "Lend-Lease" program. At the time, the only principal

constraint imposed on RA by the US War Department in using the RIA equipment was chambering the rifle for the .30-06 cartridge in case of a future takeover of the British contract to meet any potential US need for small arms and spare parts.

The rifle as initially produced was to carry appropriate British markings as determined by agreement with the British Purchasing Commission (BPC). There simply was no need at the time for any US preoccupation with formal identification or how to mark a rifle being specifically manufactured for a foreign government. Yes, that was all to change in due course, but not until after a series of fundamental decisions evolved that permanently affected key character features of the rifle as then standardized. Most of these changes were given marginally little thought by Ordnance officials pursuant to marking the rifle to US standards until circumstantially too late in the rifle-making scheme of things. However, one of them produced a profound and irrevocable inconsistency in terms of adhering to the manufacturing and marking prescription for a M1903A1. A brief overview follows.

The first thing that happened beginning in December 1940 involved stock wood. This was months before over 50 railway carloads of RIA tooling and equipment were actually delivered to the Ilion, N.Y. plant in April 1941. The RA saw a perfect opportunity to accelerate their forthcoming production program for the British upon learning that the US still had 4 million walnut "S" stock blanks in storage left over from W. W.I. After all, the RIA tooling being leased could only make an "S" or "straight" stock. So, in March 1941, they prevailed upon the OD to acquire 600,000 of these stock blanks towards their pending 500,000 rifle British contract. Without going into unnecessary detail here, the OD generally thought the idea to be a good one, particularly if they could arrange for ammunition in trade. RA was noted for its ammunition excellence. Indeed, since 1936, the War Department had already initiated discussions with RA for the manufacture of munitions along with development of new plants. It wasn't just a win-win proposition; it was a perfect opportunity to get rid of a lot of old wood to the British. In June 1941, after months of negotiations, the Secretary of War approved an order to provide RA the desired stock blanks in return for a like value of .45 cal. Ball ammo.

The second key event was the drawing standards provided RA by Springfield Armory (SA) for making the rifle, which also took place long before RA actually took delivery of the RIA / M1903 tooling. Again, it won't be elaborated in any detail at this time, but there were no Rock Island component drawings provided with this

equipment dating from the time these tools were last used. They simply couldn't be found, because they didn't exist! Suffice it to say, the drawings SA were ordered to supply RA met most of the standards for making the current M1903A1 configuration; and as far as the SA was concerned the mission of RA was to manufacture the "A1", not an obsolete rifle. To do otherwise would have been a step backwards in time and technology, a decision the "Armory" could not favor under any circumstances.

Well, it didn't take long before the impossibility of making any kind of SA-compliant M1903 with the old and worn RIA equipment became self-evident. The task was further handicapped by differing machine set-ups than last used by SA upon retiring the bulk of their own M1903 tooling. However, SA was instructed to cooperate with RA since time was of the essence, and the British contract was primarily a one-time, limited duration production effort to augment the supply of emergency arms to US allies. The perceived need for these rifles was considered urgent. But by the time agreement had finally been reached between SA and RA engineers regarding all the modifications necessary to be able to adapt current standards to the old equipment, thereby actually producing an acceptable rifle, over 600 changes had to be made to the SA drawings, with more to come. In addition, however, SA approved numerous RA-requested improvements related to engineering processes, manufacturing simplification, materials choices, heat treatment, component finish, etc., *before* production of the very first rifle. Notwithstanding certain classic features of early test rifles and prototypes, the reality is RA was about to launch mass production of a rifle that failed to strictly follow either past or present rifle specifications; the M1903 had genuinely become a hybrid.

Rules of The Lend-Lease Program

As previously alluded to, until July 1941 when the OD seriously began negotiations with RA in taking over the British contract pursuant to emerging new regulations of the Defense Aid Act (Lend-Lease), not a whole lot of effort or thought was given to either US markings or what contract language would be used to formally identify the Remington-made M1903 aside from current official US "Drawing" requirements. It was also at this same time that implementation of the new regulations for administering the Lend-Lease program were being fast-tracked into wartime operations relating to all US made products for foreign consumption. Up until then, the operating levels of the OD were still under the belief that the M1903 being manufactured by RA in Cal. .30-06 was a one-time contract for the UK, and was to primarily contain British approved identification and markings. That was the clear understanding

of the UK/BPC along with RA management and their counterparts in the Office of Chief of Ordnance during the transition period leading up to US takeover of the British contract. In other words, until British contract rifle making was completed, and providing RA was given a subsequent or separate US contract thereafter, there was no compelling urgency for the OD to be overly concerned about US marking decisions on a rifle being made for exclusive British use.

Then suddenly, in July 1941, RA was being told in the "takeover" negotiations involving the President's Defense-Aid Division personnel that the British Contract was not only being assumed by the US, but that it was to conform with all US Drawing requirements, including the new AXS-619 specification still in its final development stages for this particular M1903 variant. Even many high level US Ordnance Officials failed to fully appreciate the real implications of these recently issued Lend-Lease regulations requiring that any foreign government recipient through the Lend-Lease program shall only receive products that are "*...treated the same as any other United States defense contract*". In other words, the rifle must be made and marked like any rifle manufactured for exclusive domestic use.

The Typical "A1" Mind-set

On 31 July 1941, Major W. T. Moore, Office of the Chief of Ordnance in Washington, sent a letter to SA asking them "*...to set aside a block of serial numbers...*" for the imminent "*...contract for 508,000 rifles being procured for the British Purchasing Commission with Defense Aid Funds*". The subject of his letter was specifically: "*Serial numbers for U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1903A1 being manufactured by the Remington Arms Company*" (emphasis added). As negotiations for the US takeover had now gotten underway, Major Moore was either acting under instructions and/or simply taking appropriate initiatives leading ultimately to decisions soon to be made on serially marking RA made rifle after US takeover of the British contract. Obviously, in his mind at this stage of the process, the rifle being made was still regarded as a **M1903A1** (See Exhibit No. 1).

Taking Stock

Even though serious discussions began in March 1941, the final decision to allow RA use of 600,000 existing stock blanks in storage left over from W.W. I for what the OD desired in trade didn't occur until June 3, 1941, when Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson formally approved exchanging the stock blanks for .45 pistol cartridges (See Exhibit No. 2). This was only a month before formal takeover

negotiations began with RA regarding the British contract pursuant to the Lend-Lease regulations. So, even at that late date, the capabilities or limitations of the stock blank wasn't a matter being seriously addressed. Nevertheless, the RIA tooling being used by RA was only capable of making the Style "S" stock, not the pistol grip "C" stock. It was inevitable that at some level of mass consciousness, the OD would soon realize the "S" stock wasn't going to fit the "A1" criteria, thus introducing a formal rifle identification dilemma.

While on the subject, note also that there were plenty more stock blanks in depot storage beyond the foregoing. In a letter dated 11 March 1941 during the negotiating process of wood-for-bullets with RA, Lt. Colonel Guy Drewry, Chief-Small Arms Division notified the Chief of Industrial Service (OD) that the current total inventory of leftover walnut blanks from the W. W. 1 period was approximately:

"Blanks, Stock, M1903 4,000,000

Blanks, Hand guard, M1903 . . . 3,000,000"

He goes on to say that these blanks were acquired from 1918 to 1920, and "....far in excess of any contemplated requirements of the US Government".

This was to become an important determinant a few months later, since this information clearly revealed the OD had another problem. They had far more stock wood on hand than first believed! No matter what the preference might have been for using a pistol grip stock, there simply was no way they could justify a budgetary requisition of new stock wood, even if available. They were stuck with the "straight" stock whether they liked it or not.

As we now know, the foregoing became a reality through the end of the War. The "S" stock was not only standardized later on for the M1903A3, but also ultimately configured into a semi-pistol grip ("scant" stock) for applications where it "...must be used..." e.g., the M1903A4 (Snipers) rifle.

Push Comes to Shove

With the advent of an actual US takeover pending, RA formally asked the OD by letter on August 13, 1941 what "...serial numbers and other special markings..." were required since the rifles were no longer to be British property, but US property. Obviously, neither SA or the OD had yet informed RA of any serial number decisions, even though Major Moore had initiated the process a few weeks before as previously cited. What was holding things up?

In the author's opinion, this formal request from RA became very pivotal in forcing specific attention by the OD to immediately come to grips with all nomenclature and markings issues, since rifle assembly at RA was soon to begin. Time had become of the essence, and the matter couldn't be further postponed. Undoubtedly, some officials in the OD were completely unprepared to promptly and intelligently answer all questions being raised. Alternatives had to be dealt with against a backdrop of potentially grave delay problems.

But they had another problem too. The soon to be formal takeover of the British contract was being handed off to the ROD, thus further compounding intra-OD communication. And it assumed a state of readiness that simply wasn't there from the start. In a letter from Colonel E. M. Ransford of the British Directorate of Small Arms and Ammunition dated 18 September 1941, the British frantically sought attention from the Washington Headquarters of the OD to "...solve this problem and if possible arrange for Lt. Col. Bowlin to have the necessary authority to take over from us." He closes by saying that some action must be taken, "...otherwise production is likely to be seriously delayed". Why this letter? Col. Ransford and his staff had just visited ROD "...to establish liaison with Lt. Col. Bowlin...". But not only was he *not there*, they were informed by his Adjutant that Bowlin "...is not at present in a position to take over the Remington contract or to deal directly with the firm (Remington) in respect of matters which continually arise and which are urgent..." (Parentheses added). It seems that clear and/or final marching orders had yet to be worked out by the Washington D.C. Headquarters office regarding ROD assumption of their new duties!

The foregoing typified the beginning of this contract takeover, with ROD constantly in a catch-up role or having to deal with the appearance of doublespeak. Ultimately, it required almost two months before all the fine points of marking the initial rifle were finally decided. In the author's opinion, the first weeks of September 1941 became a crisis of bureaucratic indecision. There was much varied opinion, and the OD changed their mind numerous times. The agony of what to call and how to mark the rifle only served to exacerbate the pursuit of administrative normalcy. At one point in July, so as not to delay production, certain OD personnel thought it appropriate to grant RA verbal approval to use the planned British marks until the US takeover process was more ready. But, that decision was not to be — as evidenced by an immediate countermarching response from higher authority, which vehemently reinforced the new policy and rules to precisely follow all US marking standards.

to be made to the drawings in order to continue basic use of the tooling. But in addition, RA was to learn that besides the problems inherent with the RIA equipment, the SA also had made "...refinements of design to improve functioning which were not shown on drawings and were not reflected in productive equipment supplied by the Government" (emphasis added). There was also the matter of RA-initiated changes. In this same referenced report, Hess goes on to say, "in an attempt to take advantage of the knowledge of gun manufacturing acquired by Remington Arms since the last war, a large number of changes were made in the rifle". Most of these latter changes initiated by RA throughout the 1941 start-up period dealt with alternative materials due to wartime strategic shortages, and technology enhancements in finish, metallurgy, and heat treatment; but there were also design simplification and improvements in the manufacturing process approved.

But the most incontrovertible reason the M1903A1 couldn't be made was due to the stock. If for no other reason, the decision to go back to using the old "S" stock rather than the current pistol grip "C" stock standard would not permit the use of a M1903A1 marking on the receiver anyway. The SA had to make this fact very clear to the OD decision-makers, even if some of the liaison officers had already known it.

In the author's opinion, it was in the second week of September 1941 the OD formally decided to call this initial Remington-made variant the "**M1903 Modified**" in response to the recent RA request for exact marking information and instructions, not at some later date, and certainly not as late as March, 1942. It was in this mid-September time frame that RA was preparing for final assembly and needed to know precisely what the final stamping and marking protocol was to be. It is noted that the U.S. contract takeover had not formally occurred until September 17, 1941. But more critically, and as previously noted, ROD was still trying to come on board as the District agency administering the contract for the OD. They were neither fully settled in to their administrative role, nor in providing technical liaison to the RA. The logistics problem, however, was that the rifle production process couldn't wait any longer. They needed final answers to many questions now, or face the consequences of significant delay in shipping rifles to the UK!

The author has many documents suitable for the purpose, but Exhibit Nos. 3, 4, and 5 attached are probably the most profound examples illustrating the urgency and confusion exigent within the OD hierarchy regarding actual identification and markings in the waning moments before rifle assembly began. Together, these three Teletype

messages (Note: there were actually four, but one is being omitted for brevity) constitute a conversation between ROD and its headquarters office in Washington, D.C. They are summarized hereafter using key extracts from each.

Lt. Col. Roy Bowlin, who was just handed ROD's contract administration reins, including designated Final Inspector assigned for the RA-made M1903, engaged Acting Ordnance Chief Harris in a flurry of Teletype messages between September 11 and 13, 1941 (...just before US takeover of the British Contract), and under immense pressure to start production stamping of rifle receivers and barrels. There was no time left for routine communication or letters, the matter demanded immediate attention and decision. Late in the day on 11 September 1941, Lt. Col. Bowlin sought Washington D.C. confirmation of the ROD understanding that:

*"Drawing 42-2-93a List of Drawings and Specifications U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903A1 revised 4-30-36 showing revisions in effect on 12-30-40 is to be used in connection with Remington Arms Company Contract for U.S. Rifle Cal.30 **M1903 Modified**. Please confirm"* (emphasis added).

The next morning, Acting Chief Harris confirmed it by another Teletype (not attached). But obviously Bowlin asked the question pursuant to what undoubtedly must have been a very recent decision to name the rifle "U.S. Rifle Cal. .30, **M1903 Modified**". .not **A1**, thereby confusing to him since the reference drawing said nothing about marking the receiver with the inscription "Modified" instead of "A1". So Bowlin turned right around that very afternoon and asked Harris again... okay, now in view of what you just told me:

*"information is requested regarding identification marking of receiver for U.S. Rifle M1903 **Modified** on Remington Arms contract for this item. Need for this information is urgent"* (emphasis added).

It should also be understood at this point that ROD had already been informed by letter to tell RA what the markings on the rifle were to be. There was no need for a reconfirmation unless Bowlin and his staff genuinely remained perplexed by this new official rifle designation /nomenclature as related to actually setting up the stamping equipment for the rifle receiver. Then on the following day (September 13th), Harris again responds with a clear reference to "**U.S. Rifle, M1903 Modified**", along with an exact line-by-line layout of the receiver markings as prescribed by Drawing D28371. Nowhere in this detailed marking prescription is there any stipulation to use the term "Modified". However, he closes the message by saying:

"The place of manufacture and letters A1 will not be shown on rifles of present Remington contract" (emphasis added).

Four things are reasonably self-evident from Harris' last response and this series of Teletype exchanges, in this author's opinion. The place of manufacture, e.g. Ilion, N.Y. (...comparable to **Rock Island** and **Springfield**) was at some point in the decisions process assumed to be used pursuant to the current marking standards shown on Drawing D28371 for manufacture of the M1903A1 rifle (See drawing photos). Secondly, whatever markings were being decided on for the "present" were only for this one contract, presumably until they could return to standard Ordnance practice after the British small arms need was satisfied. Thirdly, there can be absolutely no doubt that the OD was identifying the M1903 rifle being made by Remington as the U.S. Rifle, M1903 Modified, even though the receiver was not being stamped with it. And lastly, the exclusive use of Teletype communication to secure clarity and closure on such an important matter as this over such a short span of time can be reasonably considered abnormal. In other words, a decision of this gravity would not have been normally handled this way unless there existed genuine eleventh hour bewilderment requiring clarification.

It seems conceivable to this author that the foregoing determination was made under great pressure and with much internal controversy, perhaps to be later second-guessed. Among other reasons, the OD likely could not bring itself to degrade the historical image of this great firearm by stamping the receiver with the word "modified". Nevertheless, the decision was made to leave off the place of manufacture (Ilion) and the "A1" suffix, while only using the manufacturer's name "Remington" and "M1903". This final, concluding decision may well have been a compromise to satisfy the most vociferous critic of using the "modified" terminology, e.g. a modified marking procedure to avoid stamping the receiver with the word "modified". We'll never likely know this for sure, but it makes for an interesting supposition.

Old Mind-sets Die Hard

As should now be apparent, a Remington-made M1903A1 was not technically possible at this time. The dimensions of an "S" stock blank simply wouldn't allow it; and there was no time to secure a new stock supply or sufficient budgetary justification to do so. Furthermore, the rifle being made could not and did not comply with any standard set of M1903 drawings, either current or old. Effectively, a *new model edition* was being standardized!

But aside from the idea that a new model was

in the offing, it was apparently not easy for all members of the OD to fully accept the permanent nature of these changes, particularly the fact that these rifles first and foremost were now a U.S. product, not one for foreign consumption. In other words, there was still difficulty comprehending the fact that under Lend-Lease, strict conformance to US standards for domestic use was a prerequisite mandate of products made for foreign consumption. The Lend-Lease regulations made no distinction. All products were to be one and the same.

It appears that many OD personnel still hung onto the false notion that somehow fulfilling this contract would be a one-time affair to take care of a British shortage of rifles. At least some remained oblivious to the fact that the rifle could never again conform to some former ideal, no matter who it was being made for! Yes, the US specification itself had *necessarily and permanently changed!* This was no longer a British - RA contract, but it made no difference. . there was no going back!

The fact of the foregoing was never more evident than in development and dissemination of the new AXS-619 Specification for the new "*M1903 Modified*" rifle. In a memo to ROD dated 17 September 1941, the very day the US took over the British contract, Major W. T. Moore acknowledged to concerned subordinates that all the "*discrepancies in drawing numbers contained in Specification AXS 619 have been noted.*" Then he went on to say, "*Inasmuch as the specification will be used only for this **one** contract, it will be unnecessary to amend the specification*" (bolding and emphasis added). As it turned out, RA was actually manufacturing the rifle according to *approved changes* that had not yet been conformed to the emerging AXS-619 specification, whose first edition had just been released on 23 August 1941. Even then, SA, who was both a part of the approval process as well as responsible for drawing maintenance, couldn't keep up with the rapidity of changes being made to the rifle.

The reality is that from the number of subsequent revisions made to AXS-619 now documented, Major Moore eventually had to eat his words. Indeed, within a week he would further learn that there was a growing list of additional differences between the AXS-619 as it then existed and the "...*actual manufacturing procedure to date...*" used by RA. The fact is... both the drawings and this Specification would have to subsequently be modified numerous times over the course of the next year.

Once again, the point is made. . . at least in the mind of Major Moore, this "**Modified**" version of the M1903 was just a one-time production effort primarily to take care of a British need for rifles; and there was

no need to become inordinately concerned with making permanent changes to the official U.S. Specification. We also now know there was no going back to some hypothetically correct standard thereafter, because *that too had changed!* With RA production gaining momentum and the US need to make even more rifles after "Pearl Harbor", the entire situation became irreversible to retroactive compliance with some peacetime protocol. There would never again be a volume-produced M1903 or M1903A1. Those days were gone forever!

Smith-Corona Goes From "A1" to "A3"

For anyone who still might not be persuaded that it was the original intent of the OD to make the M1903A1, it is probably worth noting the events leading up to the L. C. Smith-Corona Company (S-C) contract, which followed the RA contract.

The OD knew almost certainly since the Pearl Harbor debacle that they would likely be soliciting the services of other prime rifle contractors. Originally, there were to be three of them. But on 31 January 1942, they issued a procurement order to High Standard Manufacturing Corporation (HS) granting authority to manufacture 100,000 **Model 1903A1** rifles ...not M1903 rifles. In the author's opinion, it makes no sense whatsoever to require a new contractor to produce a different M1903 version than the one then being produced by RA, particularly when they expected RA to provide technical support to the new company as well as assure all parts be interchangeable. But remember that even after the 600,000 stock blanks were provided to RA, the OD still had 3.4 million left! So, by the time the formal contract switch from HS to S-C was consummated for the same 100,000 rifles the following March 4, 1942, the formal contract was written around producing **M1903 Modified** rifles, not the M1903A1 rifles being sought the previous January. Once again, there is positive evidence that while the desire for an M1903 in the current "A1" configuration seemed to prevail, the reality of its impossibility had to eventually be recognized for this contract also. And as we now know, it was again changed a few months later to the M1903A3, causing considerable hardship to S-C, which was still in the midst of mobilizing for the M1903 Modified production.

Post-War Reflections

When Captain Philip B. Sharpe was encouraged by his extensive readership at the end of W.W. II to update his 1938 book, *The Rifle in America*, he decided among many other topics to add an entirely new chapter dealing exclusively with "The Springfield in World War II". He was an expert ordnance officer during the War, and felt

very confident in writing about the Remington-produced M1903, if for no other reason than that he had successfully secured "*the assistance of the following members who searched in files long moldy to locate historical data, and who lent generously of their time*". Among the names he personally credited from RA were A. L. Lowe, Gail Evans, Frank Kahrs, John Chisnall, and Major W. E. Witsil. All these men were unquestionably RA heavyweights at the time and had privileged information about RA operations, for sure. A. L. Lowe in particular can be singled out as an Ilion plant insider who not only worked for George O. Clifford, Plant Manager in charge of the entire M1903 Operation for RA during the start-up years; but who also remained there in a hands-on, technical and managerial capacity throughout the entire war. What Sharpe learned from Lowe has to be considered no less than exceptionally credible.

This following extract is on page 548 of Phil Sharpe's updated 1947, 2nd Edition:

"Remington manufactured three versions of the Model 1903 which they chose to call the Model 1903 Modified, the Model 1903A3, and the Model 1903A4. The Model 1903 Modified has been called in some military circles the Model 1903A1 Modified. The A1 model as finally produced at Springfield Armory at the time of its termination in manufacture was equipped with a pistol grip stock. In full production, Remington found it advisable to eliminate the pistol grip stock, and this change was approved by Ordnance engineers. The new designation given to this version was 'Modified'."

If the foregoing isn't sufficiently convincing, let's go for one more. Lt. Col. H. H. Mitchell, Historical Officer of the OD, was commissioned at the conclusion of W. W. II among other tasks to write the "*History of U.S. Rifle, Cal. 30, M1903*". He used many writers, including Mr. Gordon H. Lyle of the Small Arms Division, Industrial Service Office, OD, along with other contributing associates to conduct the principal research work. Among these men was C. A. S. Howlett, who wrote "Supplement 1" covering the period October 1941 to June 1944, portions of which appear in Brophy's M1903 book.

Mr. Howlett obtained his material directly from various central files of the Office, Chief of Ordnance. He stated that his primary motive for "Supplement 1" was to promote for this particular M1903 period a better "*...knowledge of the controlling conditions under which the subsequent production program was consummated*". On page 3 of the 25 June 1945 version of his manuscript, Mr. Howlett says:

"During this production period, it was proposed

to standardize on the pistol - grip stock used on M1903A1 for all M1903 rifle models. It was found, however, that stock blanks had already been purchased for the complete contract requirements at Remington Arms Company based on using a straight stock as in the original Springfield M1903 design. There was not sufficient material in the M1903 stock blanks to fashion the pistol grip design. Drawing changes were then authorized..."

Once again, it was the understanding of a writer who had access to both active Ordnance personnel and real-time files yet to become archival, that the OD originally intended to make the M1903A1, but the stock blanks being used simply wouldn't permit it.

Conclusion

Let me first say that this entire effort is not a reckless or capricious attempt at rewriting history. In this author's opinion, it would be very difficult to refute the apparent fact that the Model 1903 was never an official variant in the W.W II series of Remington-made military rifles. With the exception of the special sniper version, then, all service rifles were either a **M1903 Modified** or a **M1903A3**, one of the two. There is simply too much legitimate documentation in evidence to conclude differently; including much more than was used to support this singular writing.

The question remains then: Where did previous conclusions go wrong? How could credible prior historical research have possibly deduced that the first rifles made by Remington from September 1941 to March 1942 were of the M1903 variety? I've asked myself that question a thousand times. An answer? First, I'll reflect on what Clark Campbell told me a few months ago when he reiterated that comprehensive archival material on file with RA necessary to form a complete and accurate history during W.W. II has been long since destroyed. Likewise, the Ordnance Department equivalent appears so fragmented and remote as to make easy access laborious and impractical.

It was well into the 1950s before the Remington-made M1903 series even began to be seriously viewed as potentially collectible arms. But, even then there wasn't a strong interest in preserving its fascinating history. Secondly, to Mr. Campbell's knowledge, no one has ever seriously attempted to form a comprehensive picture out of the historical puzzle fragments that may still remain. Most written works to date have been content to plagiarize from others or summarize what generally happened during this period and without much elaboration.

Along with documents in this author's possession not previously reported, the most likely explanation in my opinion is attributable to the manner of interpretation of the contract documents themselves. I've never seen a copy of Supplement No. 3 / W-740-ORD-2210, which reportedly is the formal ROD contract executed between the parties on 10 March 1942, and which consolidated all Supplements issued up until that time under the original Defense Aid contract No. DA-W-740-ORD-36. This is where, I'm told, the descriptive terminology U.S. Model 1903 Modified was officially used for the first time. Up until then, the OD was issuing so-called "Letter of Authorization" contracts to RA. Somehow, it became reasonable for prior writers to equate this new "modified" nomenclature to the more visible changes extant, particularly after November 1941. No one apparently thought about the possibility that this was always how the rifle was designated, but the first time perhaps it appeared in formal contract language.

While some of us may never have our wonderment of Remington's marvelous W.W. II story fully satisfied, though the inexorable quest continues, it's good to know that there can still be new answers . . . even if the questions are no longer being asked. ♣

References and Bibliography

1. *The '03 Era*, Clark S. Campbell, 1994
2. *The Springfield 1903 Rifles*, William S. Brophy, 1985
3. *The Rifle in America*, Phillip B. Sharpe, 1947
4. *Remington Arms in American History*, Alden Hatch, 1956
5. *American Military History* (Army Historical Series), Maurice Matloff, General Editor, 1969
6. Record Group 156: Miscellaneous Files and Documents, Chief of Ordnance, 1940-1945, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
7. Original M1903 Drawing Prints, Remington Arms Co. Files, Clark S. Campbell, Circa 1955
8. Various Letters, Memos and Documents From Correspondence Files - Remington Arms Co., Clark S. Campbell, Circa 1955

Exhibits follow →

TO INSURE PROMPT ATTENTION
IN REPLYING REFER TO

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
WASHINGTON

WJL/gml

July 31, 1941

ATTENTION OF
**Small Arms Division
Industrial Service**

59
O. O. WAR DEPT.
400.3.345
AUG 1 1941
15654

**Subject: Serial Numbers for U. S. Rifles, Caliber .30 M1903A1
Being Manufactured by the Remington Arms Company**

**To: Commanding General,
Springfield Armory,
Springfield, Mass.**

1. It is requested that the armory set aside a block of serial numbers to be used by the Remington Arms Company, Ilion, New York on a contract for 508,000 rifles being procured for the British Purchasing Commission with Defense Aid funds.

2. It is suggested that a block of 600,000 numbers, starting with 3,000,000 and running consecutively through 3,599,999, be set aside to provide for an overrun in the event that such occurs.

3. Rochester Ordnance District should be instructed to advise the Remington Arms Company that serial numbers, beginning with 3,000,000 and running consecutively through 3,507,999, have been assigned for the rifles to be procured under the pending contract.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance:

W. T. MOORE,
Major, Ord. Dept.,
Assistant.

1 of 400 serials dated 8/5/41
S.A. 474.1/1019



SMALL ARMS DIVISION
INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

EXHIBIT No 1

C
O
P
Y

O.O.474.8/173

WD 471 (5-19-41)MC-F

June 3, 1941

MEMORANDUM TO: The Under Secretary of War

SUBJECT: Exchange of Walnut Gun Stock Blanks and
Hand Guard Blanks (Remington Arms Company).

1. Under the provisions of the Act of July 2, 1940, (Public No. 703, 76th Congress) you are directed to cause the Chief of Ordnance to exchange with the Remington Arms Company, Incorporated the following listed materiel for the rifle, caliber .30 M1903, which is declared surplus, for an equivalent money value in caliber .45 pistol cartridges, ball, M1911:

600,000 Walnut gun stock blanks
600,000 Hand guard blanks

2. For the purposes of this exchange, the walnut gun stock blanks will be valued at \$0.7225 each; the hand guard blanks at \$0.07225 each.

3. A copy of the certificate signed by the Chief of Staff as provided for by the Act of June 23, 1940 (Public 671, 76th Congress) is attached hereto.

/s/ Henry L. Stimson

Secretary of War.

Confidential

EXHIBIT NO 2

WZ

WASH DC CHIEF OF ORD WAR DEPT HCS

ROCHESTER ORDNANCE DISTRICT 9-11-41 5.20 PM EDST RLB CCP RE CJG

CHIEF OF ORDNANCE WASHINGTON, DC ATTN--INDUSTRIAL SERVICE, SMALL
ARMS DIVISION ATTENTION ENGINEERING SECTION

IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS OFFICE THAT DRAWING 42-2-93A

"LIST OF DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS U. S. RIFLE, CAL. M

.30, M1903 A1" REVISED 4-30-36 SHOWING REVISIONS IN EFFECT ON

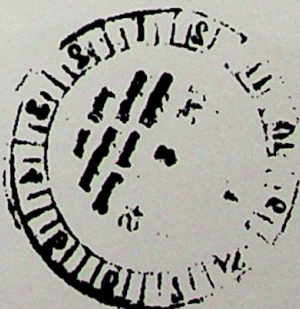
12/23/40 IS TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY

CONTRACT FOR U. S. RIFLE CAL. .30 M1903 MODIFIED. PLEASE CONFIRM.

BOWLIN, COL

END

END



2d Lt. Ames

EXHIBIT NO 3

SEP 12 2 47 PM '41
CHIEF OF CONFERENCE
CITE

M

WASH DC CHIEF OF ORD WAR DEPT GP
ROCHESTER ORDNANCE DISTRICT 9-12-41 3.50 PM EDST RLB RGU AME CJG
CHIEF OF ORDNANCE WASHINGTON, DC ATTN--INDUSTRIAL SERVICE, SMLL
ARMS DIVISON - COPY TO DISTRICT CONTROL DIVISION

INFORMATION IS REQUESTED REGARDING IDENTIFICATION MARKING OF
RECEIVER FOR U. S. RIFLE M1903 MODIFIED ON REMINGTON ARMS CONTRACT
FOR THIS ITEM. NEED FOR THIS INFORMATION IS URGENT.

BOWLIN, LT COL

ANO

2d Lt (Bowlin) (1)
A. C. L. (2)

29501

EXHIBIT NO. 4

160 / 60051
1-1-1941
J.T.
C
G
WASH DC CHIEF OF ORD WAR DEPT SEPT 13, 1941 12.48 PM EST VJ HRB/GML
ROCHESTER O D -U-

REURTELETYPE DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1941, AT 3.50 PM REGARDING IDENTIFI-
CATION MARKING OF RECEIVER FOR U. S. RIFLE, M1903 MODIFIED ON REMINGTON
ARMS CONTRACT. POSITION OF IDENTIFICATION MARKING IS SHOWN IN UPPER
RIGHT HAND CORNER OF DRAWING D28371. MARKING SHALL BE STRICTLY AS
FOLLOWS -COLON-

1ST LINE - "U.S.". 2ND LINE - "REMINGTON". 3RD LINE - "MODEL 1903".
4TH LINE - "SERIAL NUMBER". THE PLACE OF MANUFACTURE AND LETTERS "A1"
WILL NOT BE SHOWN ON RIFLES OF PRESENT REMINGTON CONTRACT. SERIAL
NUMBERS FURNISHED BY SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, REFERENCE OUR LETTER DATED
SEPTEMBER 3, 1941 SUBJECT MARKINGS REQUIRED ON CAL. .30, M1903 RIFLES
MANUFACTURED BY REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY.

HARRIS, ACTING CHIEF

ANO

1586-10
SA
ORIGINATED BY: [Signature]

EXHIBIT NO 5

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 OCTOBER 1, 2001.

DCM RIFLE & PISTOL SALES

568605	Colt .32 pistol	BG V. L. Cary
1211304	M1903A1 rifle	G. A. Hyde
1262985	M1903 NMP	B. E. Peterson
1275212	M1903 rifle	C. S. Hoffman
1277701	M1903 SPT	R. C. Hoyt
1287348	M1903 NM	G. M. McCormick or J. P. Schopper (dupe number)

Civil War

10806	Colt M1860 revolver	Co. L, 16th Pennsylvania Vol. Cav.
30774	Colt M1860 revolver	Co. L, 5th Ohio Vol. Cav.
C,18053	Sharps carbine	Co. K, 2nd New York Mounted Rifles
5672	Spencer carbine	Co. K, 72nd Indiana Vol. Inf.

Spanish-American War

245215	M1884 rifle	Co. M, 1st Territorial Vol. Inf.
250336	M1884 rifle	Co. E, 31st Michigan Vol. Inf.
476148	M1884 rifle	Co. G, 52nd Iowa Vol. Inf.
66906	M1896 rifle	Co. M, 3rd Nebraska Vol. Inf.
170242	M1898 rifle	Co. I, 34th U. S. Vol. Inf.

U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, etc.

4087	Colt DA38 revolver	Philadelphia Navy Yard
609	M1 rifle	Co. B 18th Inf.
3843	M1 rifle	U.S. Marine Corps (1st issue)
344729	M1884 carbine	Co. A 1st Nevada Vol. Cav.
182860	M1898 rifle	U. S. Naval Academy
21	M1903 rifle	June, 1903 Accuracy Test
41085	M1903 rifle	Tennessee Nat'l Guard
1029	M1911 pistol	Prohibition Unit

Caution!

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MISCELLANEOUS KRAIG RIFLES
CITED IN ORDINANCE DEPT., AEF, AND OTHER RECORDS

Serial	Model	MMDDYY	Usage	Serial	Model	MMDDYY	Usage
383741	98R	100228	USMC MANAGUE	471600	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
399912	98R	083118	DUPONT CO (LOST)	471653	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
400224	98R	083118	DUPONT CO (LOST)	471684	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
404285	98R	083118	DUPONT CO (LOST)	471695	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
404410	98R	083118	DUPONT CO (LOST)	471717	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
404726	98R	083118	DUPONT CO (LOST)	471719	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
405608	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471737	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
409849	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471770	98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
415549	98G	092038	FA	471792	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
428520	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
439624	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471804	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
440745	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
440777	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471819	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
440788	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
440795	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471855	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
440827	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471858	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
440955	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
440968	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471860	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441113	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
441143	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471891	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441182	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
441228	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471953	98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441420	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	471982	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441562	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472095	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441577	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472100	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441603	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472110	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441608	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472179	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441641	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472218	98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441655	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472225	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441707	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472237	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441752	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472288	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441763	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472391	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441844	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472398	98R	102417	CO C 18TH ENGR (DAMAGED)
441876	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	472935	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
441941	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473109	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
442373	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473279	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
442388	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473570	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
442611	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473584	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
442895	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473733	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
442896	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473843	98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443113	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473905	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443123	98R	102417	CO C 18TH ENGR (DAMAGED)	473927	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443130	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	473985	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443139	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474054	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443275	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474063	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443306	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474073	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443597	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
443669	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474086	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443763	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474187	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443767	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474207	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443770	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474264	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443920	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474370	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
443993	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
444075	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474401	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
447386	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474410	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
448551	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474449	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
448579	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474467	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
448652	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474564	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
448868	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474605	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
449022	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
449137	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474661	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
449482	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
450009	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474675	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
450311	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474870	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
450804	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	474896	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
450925	98R	080507	1907 PALMA TROPHY MATCH	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
451984	98R	063043	HAWAII (IMPOUNDED ALIEN PROP)	474911	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
456542	98R	112128	USMC MANAGUE	474916	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
461794	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474921	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
463968	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
465015	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474950	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
467273	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
467564	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474966	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
468333	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
468452	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	474979	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
469025	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	
" 98R	111617	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I		475023	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
469492	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	475331	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
469893	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	475388	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
470158	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	475402	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I
470248	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	476339	98G	092038	FA
470412	98R	080817	CO E 18TH ENGR RY AEF	479964	98R	111345	MIL GOVT HAWAII (RELEASED)
471297	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	480690	98R	060840	J T WEAVER
471529	98R	102017	CO C 18TH ENGR RY AEF (TURNED I	480799	98R	030942	HAWAII MIL DEPT (RELEASED)

Model Code(s): 98G = Gallery Practice Rifle 98R = Service Rifle

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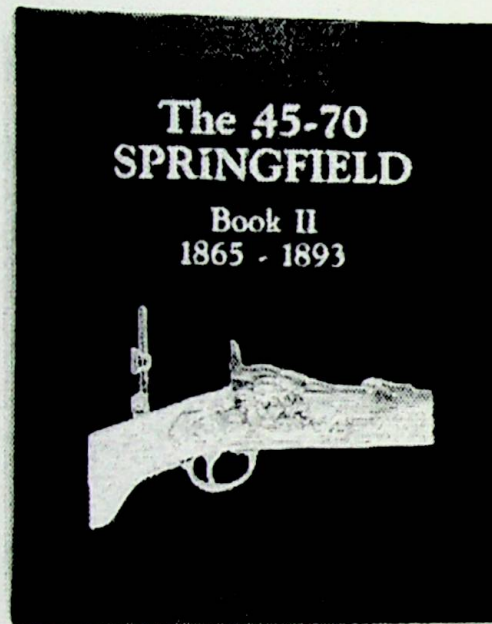
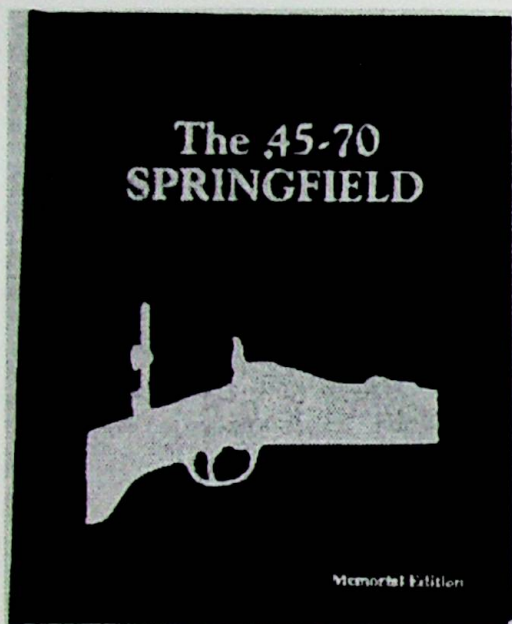
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