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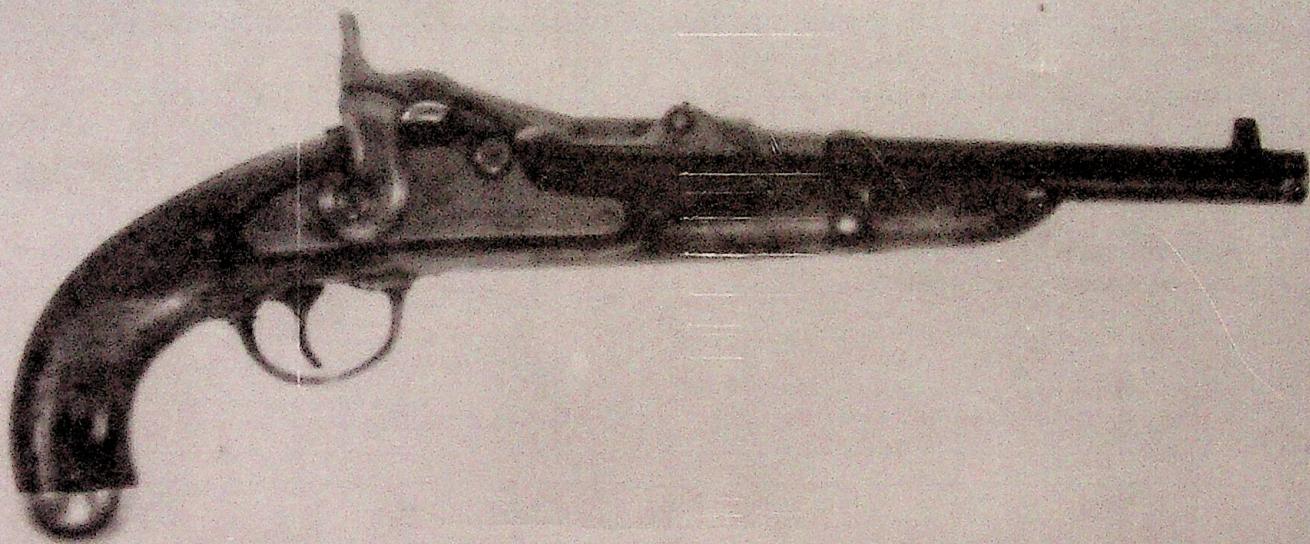
# MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



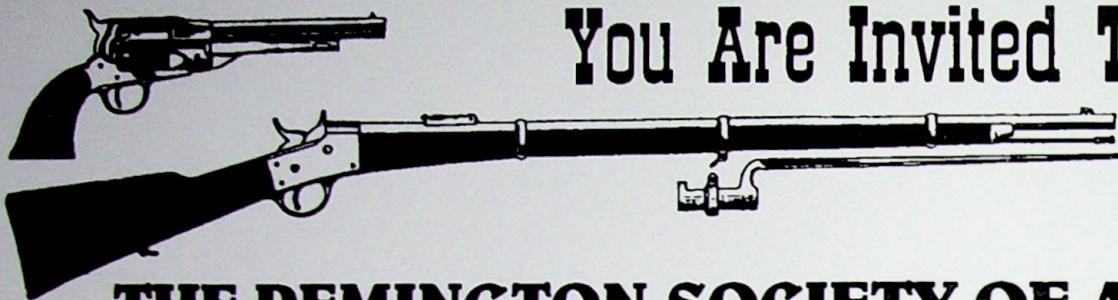
Number 99 December 2003

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Bore .....	Rifle
Method of Loading .....	Breech
Firing Mechanism .....	Firing Pin in Block
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*Thomas J. Pearce*

STUDENT AND COLLECTOR

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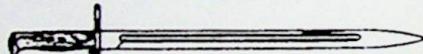
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CIRCULATION MANAGER  
**Franklin B. Mallory**

A quarterly publication of  
SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH  
SERVICE, P.O. Box 4181, Silver  
Spring, MD 20914. Printed in U.S.A.  
Send changes of address and all other  
material to this address.

Subscription price \$25 per year,  
including First Class postage anywhere  
in the world. Air mail postage \$10 per  
year additional.

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Cover: Ordnance Dept. photo of the  
Trapdoor pistol.

U.S.  
**MARTIAL ARMS  
COLLECTOR**  
and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 99

December 2003

- 2 MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND NOTES
- 3 LETTERS RECEIVED & SENT
- 11 "CORRECT" MODEL 1917 SERVICE RIFLES
- 24 GUNS "LETTERED" DURING CURRENT PERIOD

## Miscellaneous News and Notes

### Research During This Period

Most of the research time during this period was spent continuing through the WWI and Air Corps records at Archives II. One of the interesting things found was a report from 1917 of 40 rod bayonet Trapdoor rifles in Air Service storage.

At Archives I, I have been trying to get more information on the delivery of Winchester Hotchkiss rifles and carbines.

### Data on CD and Web Page

Updated to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2003. Much disposal data on Colt and S&W M1917 revolvers has been added, in addition to other data.

### Springfield Target and Sporting Rifles Book

I started on this book, which will cover subject rifle from 1908 to 1942 ("The '03 Era", to borrow a phrase from Clark Campbell). This will be a gun book like no other, containing articles from contemporary as well as modern sources, comprehensive notes and illustrations from Ordnance records, plus all the serial number data on target and sporting rifles that we have found.

Your suggestions and contributions are welcome.

### Krag Rifle Story II going, going, ...

Only about 150 copies left, and it will not be reprinted.

### Contributions

Nearly all the contributed material is being included or at least mentioned in the Letters Received & Sent column. Due to the length of Nick Ferris' article and the volume of mail received, four pages are being put off until the next issue, which I hope to get out in January 2004.

It would be greatly appreciated if contributions, including photos and other material, bear the legible name of the contributor or source. The same for payments for subscriptions and other orders. I have several subscription orders or renewals on hand with no name or address; I try to check for this and get the info off the envelope or check/money order, but sometimes I wait until too late. PayPal.com, which is now owned by eBay, is a good way to pay; but even

there, you should include a comment as to what the payment is for.

I need contact information on the following:

Ralph Heinz  
T. G. Smith of Texas

### 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** Johnson model 1941 Rifle Any Caliber with or without bayonet. Tom Mulligan PO box 306 Island Park, NY 11558 or [Mulligan@aol.com](mailto:Mulligan@aol.com)
- **For Sale** 1869 Cadet musket and Springfield parts. [wganer@erols.com](mailto:wganer@erols.com)

## Letters Received & Sent

### Model of 1892 Rifles

I had some correspondence with Joe Poyer relative to the "1894" date on all Model of 1892 rifles. Specifically, "the reason that ALL M'94 rifles have receivers that have 1894 dates, is that they ALL were made in CY 1894."

If this was true it would sure answer a lot of questions relative to the numerical sequence of 1894, 1895, and 1896 dated receivers prior to the introduction of the word MODEL on the receiver stampings.

I talked to Tom Pearce about this and he seemed to remember that based on the Payroll Records from the Springfield Armory, you felt that this might be the case.

My questions to you are:

"Are there indications given in the Springfield Pay Rolls that there were in fact some 23/24000 receivers made in CY 1894????"

"Are the Springfield Armory Pay Roll Record for CY 1894 and CY 1895 available at the archives?" "If so, do you know the Record Group?"

WRMKrag@aol.com

*The problem with the receiver date is that it applies to the receiver; not the completed rifle. Consequently, many rifles made (i.e., assembled) in 1895 had "1894" receivers. The stock cartouche gives the year of manufacture.*

*The production summary I reconstructed used the payroll records and is based on calendar year. Unfortunately, year 1894 is not 100% accurate due to the fact that "tariffs" were not established until a few months had elapsed -- workmen were initially paid on an hourly basis, rather than piece parts made or rifles assembled or inspected etc.*

*The SA payroll records are at the regional archives in Waltham, Mass. under Record Group 156.; I was unable to persuade them to make a microfilm copy before they were relocated from D.C. I made notes on things I felt were significant from the Krag era.*

### Rod Bayonet M1903 No. 11360

I received the Springfield Research Service letter on M1903 No. 11360 this afternoon. The material you provided proved quite interesting; M1903 No.

11360 is an unaltered Rod Bayonet Rifle in excellent (about 90%) condition. It was purchased from a suburban Chicago sporting goods store about five years ago for \$3,500 (unfortunately not by me). It sat in the rack for over a month before the previous owner saw it and (immediately) bought it.

I have a SRS letter on M1903 No. 10887 (originally a Rod Bayonet Rifle subsequently altered to 1905 Configuration and still in caliber .30-03) and I immediately noted the fact that No. 11360 went to J.T. Brayton of Chicago. I wondered who Brayton was and why he rated a M1903.

Your book, THE KRAM RIFLE STORY, has pictures of the Brayton Tubeless Telescopic Sight on page 118. I assume that Brayton was working on a similar sight for the M1903. My rifle is apparently unaltered EXCEPT: (1) two threaded holes have been drilled on either side of the rear sight eyepiece and (2) the windage knob has been shifted from the left to the right side of the rear sight. There are also several scratches in the front sight base on either side of the blade. The rear sight modifications and the front sight wear appear to indicate the rifle was, at one time, fitted with a variation of the sight pictured in THE KRAM RIFLE STORY.

Apparently No. 11360 was never returned to Springfield and remained in Chicago until last month. It is a really nice example of an early Rod Bayonet Rifle and the documentation is a definite plus.

I am fortunate to own two documented examples of the first twenty M1903s released by Springfield Armory. I purchased M1903 No. 10877 at auction for \$3000.00 three years ago; it was described as a 1906 Modification Rifle - Cal. 30-06 and was complete with the SRS documentation. I read the SRS letter, measured the rifle and chambered a caliber .30-03 cartridge. The rifle was altered by Springfield to 1905 Configuration, Cal. .30-03 and never subsequently modified. Apparently the previous owner never looked closely at the rifle OR the SRS documentation! I was VERY fortunate!

jacksonj3@qconline.com

### Trapdoor Cleaning Rods

Have you ran across any reference material pertaining to the jointed cleaning rods other than when they ground them down for krams? What I'm looking for is the orgin? Who designed them for SA? And

when?. Al says in the back of his book I but I have yet to find any information. The jointed cleaning rod started some time in 1877 as far as we know.

jack1950@zoomtown.com

*I don't remember seeing anything on this. My guess is that the idea for a jointed cleaning rod in the butt came from Winchester; it was used by them at least as early as the Model 1866 rifle, and some early Springfield sporters used a butt trap very similar to Winchester's. Possibly Winchester got the idea from somebody else, probably somebody who had failed to patent the idea.*

*Springfield changed the form of the trap in 1877, either to make it easier to operate or to avoid patent infringement with the Winchester trap design.*

#### **FW Cartouche, RIA #1**

Regarding the FW cartouche on RIA 239517, p. 98-5 of the recent USMAC, it stands for Francis L. Ward. He marked RIA rifles in part of 1917. Later he marked rebuilt rifles there, using the stamp RIA/FLW in a rectangle. He died in 1931, so that puts a limit on the rebuild date. I have a brief biography of Ward on p.129-130 of my book, "Rock Island Rifle Model 1903"

To answer your question, "What do we know about RIA#1?" It was made 20 Dec. 1904, cartouched C.N./1905, and put in the RIA Museum, where it remains. No war vet.

nick.ferris@juno.com

*Thanks also to Gene Myszkowski for sending a copy of the RIA Museum publication illustrating and describing RIA #1.*

#### **M1903A3 Front Sight Blade Markings**

Do you have any info on the corresponding marks and heights of 03/A3 front sight blades? According to Brophy, The Springfield 1903 Rifles, page 185 the blades were made in five heights, 0.537/0.522/0.507/0.492/0.477 inch, but he doesn't tell us how each dimension is marked.

I have 2 blades marked C which are 0.502 and 0.504 respectively. John Spangler was good enough to send me an A height which measures 0.525. I would appreciate any info on how the marks correspond to the various heights. This is for more than just idle minutiae. I have 2 03/A3 rifles for which I am trying to obtain 200 yard zeros (with M2 Ball ammo) where the rear sight slide is set at 200 yards. The A blade that John sent put the rifle it is on right on, but I have

another that shoots low with the A blade and too high with the C blade. I assume there must be something in between.

jsonneborn@attbi.com

Answer by John Spangler <jhspang@earthlink.net>: *ORD 9 SNL B-3, List of All parts dated 20 May 1944 lists five items under the nomenclature Sight, front (height \_\_\_\_) (M1903A3) Each is listed alongside the column "Piece Mark or Drawing No." which lists A153078 followed by a letter A through E.*

*Here are the letters and the corresponding heights:*

*A .537*

*B .522*

*C .507*

*D .492*

*E .477*

*Just for information, the "Sight, front, (M1903 and M1903A1)" is listed without a height, and under Piece Mark or Drawing No. A130025, but both the M1903 and 1903A3 sight are listed under the same stock number B003-01-00730.*

#### **Another Old Ironsides**

This is hilarious. My friend and fellow '03 collector Jim Neri called to alert me to an ongoing auction which featured a Hoffer-Thompson gallery .22 out of Missouri.

The interesting part is that they mentioned and showed photos of the same "USS OLD IRONSIDES" stamping on the stock as the rifle I mentioned to you a couple of weeks ago. This one was a 417XXX 1910, and the auctioneer made no claim of authenticity regarding this stamp. Upon examination of my recent purchase, the markings look identical. I know mine isn't a recent make. I first saw it some ten years ago!

jcunningham619@hotmail.com

*As far as I have been able to ascertain, there is no U.S. Navy ship in the modern era named USS OLD IRONSIDES; This is the nickname of the original USS CONSTITUTION.*

*It is known definitely that spurious Navy ship names have been applied to M1905 bayonets; apparently this unfortunate practice is being extended to U.S. military small arms as well.*

#### **M1896 Krag carbine #72750**

vaningen@magma.ca

*We have nothing on this carbine.*

When you say it has a "short forearm", I assume you mean a Model 1899 stock. These were used as replacements on M1896 and M1898 carbines (inletted for the bolster at bolt root on earlier receivers). The stock on your carbine is unusual in that it has a JSA 1901 inspector mark; this probably indicates that your carbine was returned to Springfield Armory for overhaul or repair in 1901, at which time the stock was replaced. You didn't say anything about the bolster inletting. M1899 carbine stocks have been adapted to M1896 and M1898 carbines outside the Armory; this is usually detectable by close inspection.

The other mods to your carbine were not officially produced in the Armory or an arsenal, but could have been made by one of their workmen on a privately-owned gun.

#### **M1870 Carbine Barrel Finish**

Sending off the St Louis Board report today.

I noticed some comments about finish in Gen. Dyer's comments on the Board's report. Because of the fact that they were experimenting with nickel plating at that time, he recommended that the barrels on only some of the experimental arms be browned. The SA payroll records would tell how many were browned, but unfortunately they are at Waltham Mass. with no microfilm copy.

So I gather from this that either bright or browned would be "correct".

#### **US Vol Inf Units**

Based on the info contained in your listing of serial number for Krags, it shows that some of the US Vol Inf units were armed with cavalry carbines. Specifically, carbines in the 118/119/120,xxx serial number ranges were issued to the 4th, 5th and 9th vol inf units.

Do you have any info on this oddity?

WRMKrag@aol.com

Possibly I have some more M1898 carbine numbers that aren't in the database yet.

From what I have seen, I believe that nearly all the M1898 carbines were issued to mounted infantry units in the Philippines.

#### **Speaking of Springfield Target Rifles....**

Have you ever seen a .22 Cal., M2 whose serial number had a "B" suffix? The one attached (SN 11143) was one of the end-of-run regular production rifles made in late 1941 that probably went to the Marines. Then later on (...I'm speculating) ended up being refurbished at the August Arsenal and stamped wrongfully with the "B" suffix. While it's possible the "B" stamp is spurious, I doubt it since it would make no sense for anyone to do that. Interesting rifle.

WmofGlenCrest@aol.com

My guess is that it was done in error by someone who was stamping a group of converted M1922MII rifles.

#### **M1903A1 NM in M2 Stock**

I picked up a very interesting M1903 action a week ago, and thought you might be able to shed some light on what it might have originally been. The serial # is 1475254, which is a late 1934 number. It is not listed in your latest M1903 database. The barrel date is 3/36 and it is stargauged. The star gauge registry number must have been polished off when the action was first assembled, but the date and SA with flaming bomb, and the star mark on the muzzle are as sharp and clear as new. I can find only a trace of two digits from the SG number. It is impossible to tell whether it originally had a rear sight base. The barrel is "free floating" in a cal. .22 M2 stock. The barrel band appears to be the standard Sporter/.22 band.

What kind of stock it came with, if any, is another question. The M2 wood, except for stock bolts which appear to be added "after-the-fact", looks near new. The bore and headspace are essentially new. All metal parts appear in near new condition, with no rust or corrosion anywhere. The NRA Sporter style finish is about 90% overall. The barrel, receiver and trigger guard are rust blued and look too good to be anybody's work except Springfield Armory.

It is my opinion this rifle started out life in 1936 or later as some kind of a DCM special order National Match (NM) barreled action. The Sear and Cocking Piece both have the "CV" mark and the ejector also has a tiny "N" on a flange. The bolt, follower top, bolt runways and loading flat are polished. The finish on these is darkened from age, but clearly originally polished. There is no "Hatcher" hole, in either the receiver or NS bolt. Because of its physical condition, I have to wonder where it has been for

the last 67+ years.

The M2 wood could also be original, and what some unknown customer wanted. In the 1930s, a lot of undocumented and specialized rifles came through both the DCM and directly from Springfield Armory. These continue to confound collectors to this day.

I have attached a photo of the rifle, as received, with an inset of the bolt, receiver and rear sight restoration work done so far.

There is no history, as the previous owner bought the rifle at a "Pawn Shop" in Dallas, TX. I do not think I should "restore" this action to a normal 1936 M1903A1NM configuration. In this case, it would not qualify as a restoration, since it did not leave the armory this way. Other alternatives exist such as mounting in a repro NRA Stock, or a M1922 "B" Stock and making up a NBA look alike. Considering all, and in any case, I think I will continue with my minor cleanup, and leave it in the stock it came with. I will document it in my collection records as a M1903NM mounted in a Cal. .22 M2 stock., with a write-up similar to the first paragraph of this E-mail.

(later) When I purchased my latest 03 acquisition, the seller advertised it as a NBA Sporter "Replica". On arrival, it turned out to be a 1934 National Match action with 3/36 NM star gauged barrel, mounted in a Cal. .22 M2 stock. Its condition was also excellent and the original finish was rust blueing. I only had to do a minor restoration effort, such as polishing the tarnish off the 68 some years old bright parts and a little bluing touch up. I will have some more info on the technical stuff in the next E-mail.

The purpose of this E-mail is to show a side by side comparison, at the same scale, of (1) A M2 I "built" in the summer of 02, from all new parts, (2) My NBA repro built about 8 years ago, from "like new" parts and (3) My latest DCM listed NRA Sporter acquisition in September, which required a significant restoration.

As shown, the only apparent similarity between my new rifle, and the NBA Sporter is "finger grooves" and stock bolts. The M2 .22 stock also has finger grooves. The M2 stock does have a very slight similar side view appearance to the NRA Stock. The M2 stock on the 03NM action does seem to have a slightly smaller barrel channel than the regular M2 .22 stock. Therefore, I have decided, for the time, to simply call the subject rifle "M1903 NM in M2 Stock". The big question only has educated guesses for an answer, "What was the original stock, if any ???"

I welcome all inputs.

[fmewalt@prodigy.net](mailto:fmewalt@prodigy.net)

*As far as I know, all .22 (and Sporter) barrels were heavier than standard, hence a NM barrel in an M2 stock would leave a noticeable gap on both sides; I assume this is what you mean by "free floating". If the M2 stock on this rifle is bedded for a standard barrel, it is an indication that it was original to that gun. I can't believe, tho, that SA would assemble a stock without crossbolts to a cal. .30 rifle in 1936. Also, NM barrels had a groove at the rear for the fixed base locating pin; most people wouldn't bother having this filled in, but if welded there is usually a trace that can be seen on close inspection.*

*Working on my Target & Sporting rifles book, I am going through the Ordnance documentation year by year and turning up some special work. I'm only at 1925 now, but maybe when I get to 1936, something will turn up on this gun. If not, I think it should be classified as a "Semi-sporterized NM Rifle"*

#### **Another Question Model of 1901 Sights**

Over the years I had been told by various individuals (Hicks, Miller, Hanson) that in the 1903/1905 (??) time period the ordnance department intended to standardize/simplify the rear sight problem by cutting down from 5 models (92, 96, 98, 01 or 02 + 98/02) to 2 models (01 and 02 + 98/02). In doing this, those Krags not equipped with Model of 1901 sights were to be equipped and/or retrofitted with Model of 1902 or '02/98 sights.

This being the case, some 61,000 M'96 rifles with Model 1896 sights, 124,000 M'98 with Model 1896 sights would have been affected. These are in addition to the 33,920 rifles with Model 1898 sights that were previously retrofitted (?). There is no indication in the Reports of Expenditures that supports this project being carried out. Specifically, that some 185,000 Model of 1901 sights and appropriate hand guards were produced. In your new book, you state, "It was installed on all Krag rifles issued to Regular Army troops after 1903, and was retrofitted to Model 1896 and earlier Model 1898 service rifles." (page 129).

When you read this statement, you can get a number of possible meanings:

1. Only rifles with the Model of 1901 sights were issued to the Regular Army troops. This would not -

have been a big problem -- 24 regiments, 25,000 troops max.

2. All rifles issued to the Regular Army troops had Model of 1901 sight installed. This raises the question: Originally installed or retrofitted?

3. "was retrofitted to Model 1896 and earlier Model 1898 service rifles." This raises a question: How many, some/all/a few??? Again is there any source documentation that shows the manufacture of the additional sights and hand guards?

Summary: People reading your book and attempting to determine what would/should be the correct sight for a given rifle, "AS MADE", based on Cartouche Date, Serial Number and Sights, are left without a clear answer. Instead some are claiming that any sight on any rifle is, or could be correct.

Based on my 50+ years of studying and collecting Krags I know that this is not the case. Fully 85% of the rifles that I have observed checked out in "as made" condition, i.e., there was a match of SN, cartouche and sights.

Is there any information as to which Krags were modified, how many, when, where and how?

[WRMKrag@aol.com](mailto:WRMKrag@aol.com)

*True. Unless you know the military unit that the rifle was issued to, and when it was issued, you can't say whether it should have been equipped with a 1901 or 1902 sight. Also, my guess is that many rifles in collector hands were never issued or reissued after 1903; hence, they still have the sight that was on them when turned into depots (unless changed in overhaul).*

*There is a file that shows issues for a few years starting in 1902, and as I recall it shows what sight was installed.*

*As I think I stated, it is almost impossible to determine the "correct" sight for a Krag rifle or carbine. I tried to give guidelines, but that's all they are -- no concrete rules. There are a few exceptions, of course, such as M1896 and original M1898 carbines -- a rifle sight on one of those is clearly incorrect, even tho it may have been installed in an arsenal or depot.*

*There are Annual Reports for every installation, such as the ones for Springfield published by Brophy. The annual reports of the Chief of Ordnance summarize these. They generally don't go into details such as rear sight installed.*

*To further confuse the situation, it is safe to assume that many of the Krags in circulation today were originally issued to the Navy or USMC. We can ASSUME that they retained their original sights, but who knows?*

*At the end of the Letters section are copies of three packing slips from cases of Krag rifles issued to Co. B, 302<sup>nd</sup> Engineers, during WWI. The first two list '92/96 rifles packed in 1902 and equipped with M1896 RS; the third shows M1896 rifles packed in 1905, with M1902 RS. If these rifles had been issued to regular engineers shortly after 1903, when the Krag was still the service rifle, I am sure that the M1896s would have been equipped with M1901 RS before being shipped.*

*My question for you (and other Krag collectors): What sight, if any, would you replace on these rifles to make them "correct"?*

#### **Another Question Model of 1901 Sights**

Thanks for the prompt reply -- When dealing with "what is correct," I'm forced to go back to the advice one of my dad's friends gave when he advised dad and I to restrict our research to "as made" guns and not to speculate on "as modified" or the "as is" guns.

When published/admitted changes that are published in ordnance pubs are upgraded with empirical/hand on info I have been able to identify some 25 variations of the Model 1898 rifle. As I stated in my first message, I find that most (85%??) Krags will retain all of their "as made" features. Those that don't always seem to have an alibi -- "they" did that in the field or this was done at the arsenal. Never any identification of "they" or the facility.

I have trouble with the term, ALL. Example: If ALL of a given model with a particular sight model were to be upgraded/retrofitted/modified (take a pick), then how could there be three sight models in my collection of 18 "yellow" stock rifles and they fall in the expected range with matching serial numbers, cartouche dates and sight models/variations. These guns were not changed and I contend that most weren't..

[WRMKrag@aol.com](mailto:WRMKrag@aol.com)

*I realize that, despite my efforts to promote the collecting of U.S. Martial arms that have actually seen service and as a result have suffered dings and in many cases have been overhauled, there are many*

collectors who prefer their guns to be in "mint", unused condition with all features as originally installed.

#### Navy Krag?

Frank, FYI, a 1898 rifle, serial number 363,024 with NAVY DEPT. stamped on left side of stock and a 3 over UB stamped on the right.

allman552000@yahoo.com

#### Lyman 48 Sight

I've had some interesting feedback on the Lyman 48 sighted M 1903 National Match rifle article appearing in the last edition of the U.S. Martial Arms Collector magazine. Most found it validated what they already believed. However, I think there are still a few folks who don't want to accept the fact that a legitimate variation of these National Match rifles came factory assembled with the Lyman commercial sight. But, that's okay ... time marches on and the facts can no longer be denied. But, the one thing that seems to still confuse people is the Lyman 48 "Short Slide" version (125 vertical scale) that was originally manufactured with the horizontal scale at the rear with the turn-down peep located on the front. I have a feeling that errors in Brophy's book are largely responsible for this, but many collectors still think this sight to be the much later "48 S" edition produced in the late 1930s. I've run into this before, so it may be worth clarifying.

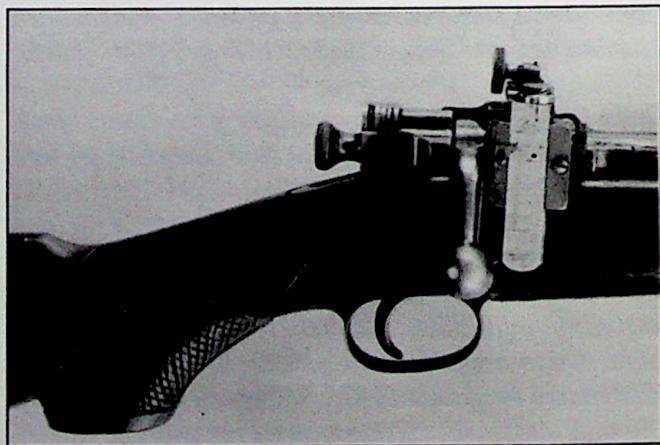
As you know, beginning in the early 1920s, the Lyman Corporation became heavily committed to its government contract program on behalf of the various M1903 "match" rifles, the .22 Cal. "Gallery Practice rifles" and the M1903 "Sporter". They had the best precision open sight on the market at the time, and it was in great demand. While all these rifles carried a 125 scale vertical slide, the very first 125 vertical scale sight was actually built on the original Lyman 48 ("Long Slide") platform. In other words, it was identical to the original Lyman 48, a.k.a. the "Long Slide" having the 150 vertical scale with one minute click adjustments ... except for the length of the slide. Lyman developed the 125 vertical scale "Short Slide" version in response to a demand by those, including the US Government, who resolved a need for lessor long range adjustments limited to 1200 yards. Having the windage scale on the rear and a turn-down peep in front, it became known as the "hunter-target" version and was ultimately chosen for that reason to be used on the .30 Cal. "Sporter". In contrast, Lyman soon developed their "48 B" edition (... originally called the NRA 48 B) especially for the

.22 Cal., Model of 1922, wherein Ordnance determined for reasons of visibility/readability, they wanted the horizontal scale moved to the front instead, resulting in elimination of the turn-down peep. However, the "48 B" retained the 48s one minute click adjustments. So, it wasn't long before strictly target users realized the need for finer click adjustments. Enter the "48 C". The "48 C" was a pure target sight and other than having 1/2 minute click adjustments, was identical to the "48 B". The "48 S", however, came out more than a decade later and was in reality a more refined reincarnation of the original 48 "Short Slide". I hope this helps to clarify the matter to some extent without going into more detail. For further proof, I'm enclosing various prints of Lyman advertisements dated March 15 and April 15, 1921, June 15, 1922 and February 1, 1923 editions of the American Rifleman ("Arms and The Man"). One actually shows the "Short Slide", including the turn-down peep, and the others describe it's availability as an option to the "Long Slide".

Bill Hansen, California

*This helps clarify the situation, Bill; however, my research indicates that the overall 48 slide situation is a little more complex than this. Based on early Lyman sight catalogs and Ordnance documentation, it appears that counting commercial and military 48 sights, there were four variations of the 48 slide:*

*1) What I will call the extra long slide. This slide is about an inch longer than the slide used on M1922, Sporter, and Trifles, and it has been seen graduated to 150 minutes, in mils, and in yards (below).*



*2) What you are calling the long slide, which has 7 graduations from 0 to 150. This is the one illustrated in the Lyman ad cut shown in your original article.*

*3) What you call the short slide, which has 6 graduations*

from 0 to 125. Installation of a sight with this slide on the '03 requires a small amount of stock in letting beyond the sight base, to allow the slide to be lowered all the way.

4) What Lyman refers to in their 1939 and 1945 catalogs as the short slide, which was designed to require no in letting beyond the base. The bottom of this slide is square rather than rounded; it was never used by the Ordnance Dept. as far as known.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone having what they consider an originally-mounted extra long or long slide on their M1903 or .22 rifle, with serial number of the rifle. Note that the 48 bases and slides are stamped with assembly numbers, and these numbers must match for the complete sight to be original.

After we get the slides straightened out, we'll take up the issue of target knobs.

#### More on 48 Sight Article

Congratulations on the August issue of the US Martial Arms Collector. I am writing to you in regard to Mr. Hansen's excellent article on the M1903 NATIONAL MATCH RIFLE AND THE LYMAN 48 RECEIVER SIGHT. I am enclosing two documents which I feel are relevant to and supportive of Mr. Hansen's questions raised in his article.

The first is a copy of a sales slip on a National Match 1903 rifle sold with a Lyman 48 sight in 1924. This should put an end to any controversy regarding the issue of whether the armory sold rifles with Lyman sights installed at the armory.

The other enclosure is a short note extracted from the SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH NEWSLETTER issue No. 26 July-Sept. 1983 pg. 3.

I am enclosing a copy of the sales slip for, what I consider to be, one of these fifty rifles. In my opinion, they were equipped with the Lyman 48 receiver sight since an additional five dollars in cost on a rifle equipped with an obsolete stock would not justify such a significant increase in the total price.

I hope this information is helpful to Mr. Hansen and your other readers who may furnish additional information on this topic.

I would like to volunteer to be an author for an article for the US Martial Arms Collector if you still need volunteers.

Thanks again for your invaluable contributions

in the US Martial Arms and in particular the model 1903 and 1903 A1 Springfield rifles.

J.W.M., Arkansas

#### NB RIFLES

Correspondence dated Feb. 3, 1930, states that 50 M1903 National Match rifles with NB stocks, drilled and tapped for Lyman 48 receiver sights, were manufactured on July 19, 1927. They were priced at \$5 more than the standard NM rifle; consequently, only 2 had been sold up to the date of the memo. Springfield proposed to convert them to standard NM configuration (at additional expense), but it was decided to reduce the price in order to dispose of them.

	SERIAL
Rifle, U.S., cal. .30, M1903, N.M.	1 264 212
#48 Lyman sight	
FILE O. O. None	7/14/24
LOCATION Springfield Armory	
DISPOSITION Sale	
REMARKS: Sold to James Satava, Cleveland, Ohio	
	6/9/24

NM rifle 1264212 was sold with Lyman #48 sight in 1924; the sales slip does not state that it has a pistol grip stock, and obviously it is not one of the NB rifles manufactured in 1927.

The other slip you sent, for NM rifle 1282755 sold in 1932, also gives no indication that it has a PG stock (nor Lyman sight).

NM rifle 1257900, illustrated with sales slip on pg. 98-20, is documented to have both PG stock and drilling/tapping for Lyman sight; probably, tho, a 48 sight was not furnished with it (tho it has one now). Note that this rifle was sold only three days before your #1264212.

All articles are welcomed. We could use one on the "NM Special" rifle, also one on USMC NM and Target rifles (not Snipers). \*

Invoice ..... 190 . { Arm Chest Number.  
Order for Supplies, No. } 3747.

### U. S. MAGAZINE RIFLES, Model 1896,

C. & R., CALIBER .30, With Model 1896 Sights  
Altered from Model 1892.

Marked with the following Numbers:

19123	8499	13068	4285
7619	13857	368	19410
2302	156	15226	17393
8949	3630	10214	3098
5848	2856	7586	13157

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, February 13, 1902.

Invoice ..... 190 . { Arm Chest Number.  
Order for Supplies, No. } 3762.

### U. S. MAGAZINE RIFLES, Model 1896,

C. & R., CALIBER .30, With Model 1896 Sights  
Altered from Model 1892.

Marked with the following Numbers:

8968	7755	8311	15609
8584	24375	13494	8020
19652	16968	19472	8322
332	8392	4587	13602
13301	6876	6192	8492

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, February 17, 1902.

Invoice ..... 190 Number of Arm Chest,  
Order for Supplies, No. 6918

### U. S. MAGAZINE RIFLES, Model of 1896,

C. & R. CALIBER .30.  
1902 SIGHTS WITH PEEP PLATE.

Marked with the following Numbers:

79543	87509
18066	53262
104260	63117
102191	85425
104473	50044

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, JUNE 26, 1905.

Packing slips for Krag rifles issued to Co. B, 302<sup>nd</sup> Engineers AEF, in 1917

# “CORRECT” MODEL 1917 SERVICE RIFLES

C. S. Ferris and R. E. Patnaude

## *Elements of Correctness*

The U.S. Model 1917 rifle was used by several nations in two world wars. “As issued” means nothing with respect to original condition, or “correctness” for collector purposes. Most M1917 rifles were rebuilt and seldom have even the main parts – barrel, receiver, bolt, and stock – all marked by the same manufacturer, Winchester, Remington, or Eddystone. Rifles with all original parts and finish are rare. Some, however, can be restored to a reasonable measure of correctness if the collector knows what the original condition was.

Collectors have thought “correct” M1917s were blued, not parkerized; were entirely made by a single manufacturer; had barrel dates that progressed with increased serial numbers; and had, maybe, some sort of acceptance or final inspection mark.

William B. Williams, in his seldom noted 1921 book on munitions manufacture in the Philadelphia Ordnance District,<sup>1</sup> said that in September of 1918 Eddystone replaced browning with parkerizing as a labor saving finish. Except for those late rifles, however, the original finish is blue (or “brown”, the term used in the specifications).

Seemingly original, correct rifles have been observed with a couple of minor parts having been made by a different company. There being no evidence of overhaul, the “foreign” parts are sometimes explained as exchanged between manufacturers during brief periods of shortage or to confirm interchangeability. Brief periods of shortage can neither be confirmed nor denied, but typically the companies made and used their own parts exclusively. Because interchangeability of parts made by the three manufacturers was of major importance and ongoing concern, the “foreign” part could have been to prove interchangeability. Trading of guns and parts for this purpose was routine (but not common) between Springfield Armory and Rock Island Arsenal for a time prior to World War One. Still, a collector would want a rifle exhibiting the general case, not an atypical exception.

Barrel dates and serial numbers track quite well, there being an exception with early Winchesters. Those made in the summer of 1917 had some interchangeability problems, and it appears that some were later modified such that they may carry late 1917 barrels. One may suppose that a barrel dated a year earlier than the receiver was somehow left out of the normal sequence of assembly, but its “correctness” would be in doubt as it did not typify production at the point in time when the rifle was assembled.

In detail, we find that of the ninety parts<sup>2</sup> (108 counting all the magazine components) comprising the M1917 rifle, 40 were stamped with one or more of the manufacturer’s initial, W, R, or E, standing for Winchester, Remington, and Eddystone. Included in this number is the receiver, which bears the full name of the manufacturer except that early Winchesters bear only a W. Additionally, 24 parts carry a government eagle head inspection mark. It is these 40 parts -- receiver, barrel, bolt, and stock, plus 36 others -- that should all be of the same manufacturer if the rifle is “correct”. While the receiver, barrel, bolt, and stock are easily identified with respect to manufacturer, the others tend to be obscure and many require disassembly of the rifle and a good magnifying glass to identify. In the course of examining the parts for manufacturers’ initials, the collector will find the government eagle head inspection mark on many of them. Some 24 of the parts may bear this mark, with a variable degree of inconsistency. While not necessary to the determination of a rifle’s correctness, extensive information and data are presented because these marks are enigmatic if not explained.

Fig. 1a. Early Winchester receiver. This style of marking ended with number 4663, Aug. 24, 1917.

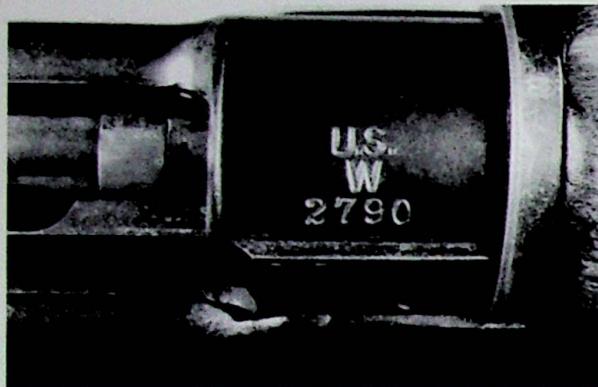


Fig. 1b. Later Winchester receiver, with model number and "Winchester" spelled out.



### Manufacturer Marks

**Stock.** At the very end (the fore-end) is a large E, R, or W stamped in the wood.

**Barrel.** On the top, just behind the front sight, the barrel is stamped: E, R, or W/ Ordnance Escutcheon (shell and flame)/ numbers for month-year.

**Receiver.** This is the most common marking on the rifle, appearing directly above the cartridge chamber as follows:

U. S.  
MODEL OF 1917  
EDDYSTONE  
serial number

U. S.  
MODEL OF 1917  
REMINGTON  
serial number

U. S.  
MODEL OF 1917  
WINCHESTER  
serial number

Early Winchesters had only "W" instead of the full name, and no "U. S. MODEL OF 1917". The W was changed to the full name at serial numbers 4664. Another Winchester receiver mark that was later dropped was the circled star on the left side, aft of the shell and flame, opposite the magazine. This mark, the significance of which is unknown, disappeared between serial numbers 141563 and 145950.

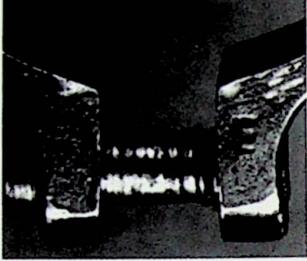
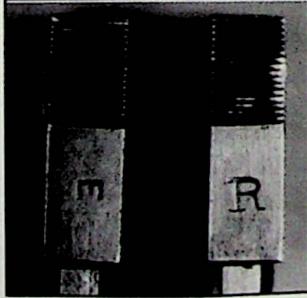
**Bolt.** The underside of the bolt handle is stamped E, R, or W. Some Winchester bolts are also marked N.S. on the underside of the handle, for nickel steel. These four parts, the bolt, stock, receiver,

and barrel, are the most important and most obvious parts of the rifle, and the most convenient for the collector to inspect for the manufacturer's mark.

**Other.** Other parts are also marked, although not always with great consistency. Some are difficult to confirm without taking various assemblages apart. For example, the bolt assemblage contains, in addition to the bolt, the bolt sleeve, cocking piece, striker (firing pin), and extractor, all of which are marked and none of which are evident without disassembly. The completely "correct" rifle (i.e., "as made") will have all these parts made by the same manufacturer.



Bolt Sleeve.	R is on the face of the sleeve. W is on the side just before the threaded section. E is on the side of the flange.
Bolt Stop Spring Rest.	Winchester seems not to have marked theirs; R and E in slot.
Bolt Stop Spring.	W, R, or E on the inside flat end. Some have no mark.
Bolt Stop.	 W on bottom side, plus some show an additional S, R, or N.S.; R on bottom side, and E on the external flat portion.
Butt Plate Cap Spring.	E at either end. No W or R.
Butt Plate Cap.	W or E on inside flat surface. No R.
Butt Plate.	W, and sometimes Winchester's commercial triangle, on inside surface, above access hole; R inside by spring boss on right side as viewed; E on toe, outside surface (often absent or worn off).
Cocking Piece.	W on the left side, R on the underside, and E or EN (either are Eddystone marks) on the right side.
Ejector and Spring.	W and E near the large end, R near the small end.
Extractor.	W, R, and E stamps are on the inside flat surface.
Floor Plate Catch.	W, or R on the bottom of the tab; E on the top of the tab.
Floor Plate.	W, R, or E stamped in plate recess (not visible from outside). 
Front Sight Blade.	W, R, or E, all on right side.

Front Sight Carrier	W, left side (or 1 or 6 instead); R on left side; E on right side
Hand Guard, Front.	W or R inside, toward front; E on outside toward rear, or inside toward front (rarely).
Hand Guard, Rear.	W or R inside, toward front; E on outside near front (rarely observed).
Hand Guard Ring.	W or R on bottom of ring, E on the top.
Lower Band.	W, R, or E are on rear of one screw boss or the other.
	
Lower Band. Swivel.	W or R stamped on side of swivel attaching stub next to hole; E marked on front of stub.
Lower Swivel Base.	W or R stamped on underside of base, E on the top.
Lower Swivel.	W or R marked on side of swivel attaching stub next to hole; E marked on front of the stub.
Magazine Follower.	W, R, or E located in various positions on the underside.
Magazine Spring.	W, R, or E stamped on the top of the top section.
Magazine.	W, R, or E stamped on the rear of the magazine box recess.
Rear Sight Base Spring.	W underside in rear of screw hole, R underside in front of screw hole, E on top in front of screw hole.
Rear Sight Leaf.	W on left side flat near peep, with various letters and numbers on the opposite flat. R or E are on the underside at the peep end.
Rear Sight Slide Assembly.	W on inside of the slide bridge, plus numbers such as 1, 2, 6, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 21 (reason unknown); R or E marked on side.
	
Safety Lock Holder.	W on side, R and E on bottom.
Safety Lock Plunger.	W, R, or E on flat side of large end.
Safety Lock.	W and R inside lever arm, E on outside of pivot.
Sear.	R, or E located on right side toward rear; W on left side (with N.S.)

Stacking Swivel.	W or R on the side of the attaching lug next to hole. E is on front of attaching lug.
Striker.	W, R, and E or EN are marked on the flat.
Trigger Guard.	W on flat at right rear, E and R on top at front near screw hole.
Trigger.	W on left side near pin hole; R on right side near pin hole; E on right, above curve for finger.
Upper Band.	W on bottom of bayonet lug, rarely with commercial triangle; R stamped on one leg of the stacking swivel screw boss; E located about half way up on right side of rear flange.

### ***Government Inspection***

Prior to World War One, the Ordnance Department had controlled its various activities through the Office of the Chief of Ordnance. It was ill-prepared and understaffed when the U. S. entered the war on April 6, 1917. A huge amount of war materials had to be obtained from numerous civilian contractors. This, and other aspects of preparing for war caused reorganization within the Ordnance Department. One of nine divisions created was the Inspection Division<sup>3</sup>. Eagle head inspection stamps were devised to ensure quality and accept weapons and their components as government property. Inspection Manual M-434 stated, with respect to the issue of these "Acceptance Stamps": "Stamps to be used for identification and acceptance marks will be furnished by the Inspection Section." The stamps were issued by the Inspection Division of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance to ordnance districts for distribution to specified plants. Each stamp required a signed receipt. The Inspection Manual M-434 continued:

Inspectors and their assistants should remember that all articles covered by the contracts they are inspecting become government property when stamped with the inspector's stamp. For this reason, it is imperative that inspectors and assistants see that their stamp does not get out of their possession. It is permissible, in the inspection of equipment to ask contractor for a man to stamp accepted work as this will expedite the inspection. Inspectors and assistants should be cautioned, however, that if they are called away, even for a few minutes, they should invariably take their stamp with them in order that there is no possibility of the stamp being used on work that has been rejected.

The eagle head stamp and its alpha-numeric system of identification was permanently assigned to the inspector, even if he was transferred to another plant. This explains why the "F3" stamped on early Remington M1917 rifles is also observed on late Winchester rifles of the same model.<sup>4</sup>

War Department specifications<sup>5</sup> state that:

2. The Government inspector shall be at liberty to inspect and supervise, either personally or by deputy, the work during its progress and to reject any unsuitable or defective material or workmanship. The inspector shall be at liberty to institute the inspection of assembled components as found desirable.

5. All gauges and appliances for making tests, other than those mentioned in Paragraph 4, required by the Government inspector will be supplied and maintained by the contractor upon written order of the Government inspector.

7. *Inspection Mark.* So far as their nature will allow, components which pass the Government inspection will be marked by the inspector with a Government mark, and only components which have passed this inspection and bear the Government mark are to be assembled into rifles.

Government inspection marks are found on many of the parts with manufacturer's marks, and on other parts as well. Again, the marking of parts was not 100%, and in some cases the percentage was very low, contrary to the listed requirement. The mark is an eagle head facing left usually, except on many Winchester parts it faces right. Under the eagle head is a number: 1 through 200 at Eddystone, 201 through 399 at Remington, and 400 through 600 at Winchester. Most frequently these numbers and the eagle head are badly stamped so that they are visible only in part. There is some degree of correlation between certain parts and certain numbers, meaning that inspectors tended to inspect only certain parts, not just any parts indiscriminately. Barrel, receiver, and some stock inspection stamps employed letters instead of numbers. Particular letters seem to have been restricted to certain companies, suggesting that those stamps belonged to the inspector, who stayed at that company. The numbers (and letters) are recorded in Table 1. Some 24 parts have been observed to bear the eagle head inspection mark, including the stock, barrel receiver, and bolt.

### **Rifle Parts Inspection Marks**

#### **Stock.**

There are two eagle head inspection stamps on the bottom of the stock, one ahead of, and one behind the trigger guard. Observed Winchester marks include those with numbers in the 5xx series, and a few in the J series. Remington inspectors used numbers in the 3xx series, while Eddystone inspectors used a wide variety in the C series, numbers 100, A, B, 1, 6, P35, and binary numbers with the numeral 1, 4, and 9 first followed by M, W, A, B, or F. No doubt there are other numbers and letters as well.



#### **Barrel.**

At the chamber there are usually several inspection stamps, with Winchester stamps in the 4xx, P, or J series; Remington stamps in the 2xx-3xx, and M series; and Eddystone in the less than 100, K, S, and B series.

#### **Receiver.**

On the left rail of the receiver, most stamps are illegible. Those of Winchester are of the P series (e.g., P-24, P4, and P5), the J series, and the 4xx series. Some eagle heads face right. Remington's are in the F series (F4, F7, F3, F10, and F24) and double digits such as 12 and 16. Those of Eddystone were observed as the K series (K5, K8, and K47) and numbers such as 5 and 58. On the underside of the receiver just behind the recoil lug are many types of inspection stamps, some of which are the Federal eagle heads. Winchester's numbers were illegible; Remington's were in the 2xx and 3xx series; and Eddystone's were single digits (such as 1, 2, and 5). The Winchesters also carry the familiar triangle with a 1 in the middle.

#### **Bolt.**

The top of the bolt handle carries the ordnance escutcheon (shell and flame). Eagle head numbers are in the 4xx series for Winchester, with eagle heads facing either way. Remington numbers are in the 2xx and 3xx series, while those of Eddystone range from 12 to 121 (observed). Most of these marks appear on the rear end of the bolt where the handle joins the body. Eddystone bolts were observed to have various other marks (letters and numbers) on the top of the handle, although some are without such marks.

#### **Other.**

Less prominent parts are marked as well, and it may seem surprising that so much effort was put into the marking alone. In most instances the marks are not entirely legible, and sometimes it appears there is no inspector mark. Certain parts seem more likely to have been skipped than other parts. N.S. or S often appears on some Winchester parts. These are not inspection marks.

#### **Bolt Sleeve.**

All the companies' bolt sleeves are stamped in the groove. Winchester in the 4xx series, Remington in the 2xx and 3xx series, and Eddystone in single to triple digits less than 200, i.e., exactly as the formula given above would indicate.

Bolt Stop Spring Rest.	Winchester and Remington marked in slot; many Winchesters not marked; Eddystone not marked with the eagle head.
Bolt Stop Spring.	No eagle head stamps observed.
Bolt Stop.	Winchester seems to have had only a few of theirs stamped, on the inside. Remington eagle heads are on the outside flat area on the side, with Eddystone's on the stop itself. The numbers are within the usual ranges.
Butt Plate Cap.	This part seems to lack any eagle head marks.
Butt Plate.	Winchesters are marked on the inside (the side against the stock) with the commercial 1 in a triangle over a W, with the eagle head on the inside right (as one looks at it) by the spring boss. The Remington eagle head is in the same position. Eddystone stamps are on the left side of the spring boss.
Cocking Piece.	All manufacturers' eagle heads are stamped on the left side.
Ejector and Spring.	No eagle head stamps observed.
Extractor.	All inspector's stamps are on the inside surface, with the numbers in their usual series.
Floor Plate Catch.	No eagle head stamps observed.
Floor Plate.	Eagle head inspection stamps on upper surface, at rear on either side.
Follower.	Winchester and Remington inspection marks (eagle heads) on upper right rear surface, with an S at this location on some Winchester followers. Few observed for Eddystone, on the bottom on the lip opposite the E.
Front Sight Blade.	No eagle head mark.
Front Sight Carrier.	Winchester eagle heads are at the rear by the keyway, Remington marks are on the left front side, and Eddystone's are in the same position, numbered in double and triple digits.
Hand Guard, Forward.	Eagle head marks are rare. Winchester hand guards have produced some numbers, none in the 400 to 600 interval, with no eagle head. One Eddystone eagle head, over 90, has been observed forward, inside.
Hand Guard, Rear.	No eagle head marks observed.
Hand Guard Ring.	No eagle head marks.
Lower Band Swivel.	No eagle head marks.
Lower Band.	Winchester, Remington, and Eddystone eagle heads are on screw boss, opposite the boss with the manufacturer initial.
Lower Swivel Base.	Eagle heads are very rare. Winchester and Remington numbers observed; none for Eddystone.
Lower Swivel.	No eagle head marks.
Magazine Spring.	No eagle head stamps observed.
Magazine.	No eagle head marks were observed.

Rear Sight Base Spring.	No eagle head inspector stamps were noted.
Rear Sight Leaf.	No eagle head inspector stamps were noted.
Rear Sight Slide Assy.	No eagle head stamps were noted.
Safety Lock Holder.	Winchester and Remington eagle heads are on the top; no eagle heads observed on Eddystone safety lock holders.
Safety Lock Plunger.	Winchester and Remington have stamps in the usual number range on the side opposite the manufacturer's initial. Eddystone has no eagle head mark.
Safety Lock.	Winchester and Remington stamped on inside part of arm at the end; Eddystone stamped on the inside of the arm toward the pivot. Numbers in the normal ranges.
Sear.	Winchester and Remington eagle head inspection marks are seen on the left side, and none for Eddystone.
Stacking Swivel.	No eagle head inspection stamps on this part.
Striker (Firing Pin).	Winchester and Eddystone eagle heads, with their usual number ranges, are stamped on the flat opposite the W, R, or E mark. Remington's eagle heads are on the same side as the manufacturer's mark.
Trigger Guard.	Winchester eagle heads appear on the upper surface behind the forward screw hole. Some Winchester trigger guards also have A.R. or A.P. at this location. The Remington eagle series are located in the relief cut near the front. Eddystone eagles are on the bottom surface just to the rear of the magazine.
Trigger.	Winchester eagle heads on left side in upper part near pin hole, or on the left side of the trigger shank. Remington and Eddystone eagle marks are on the left side of the shank.
Upper Band.	Winchester, Remington, and Eddystone inspection marks are on the rear of one leg of the stacking swivel screw boss.

**EAGLE HEAD INSPECTION NUMBERS  
OBSERVED**

PART	EDDYSTONE	REMINGTON	WINCHESTER
Barrel	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K7, K10, K13, K14 K16, K19, K20, K25, K29, K35, K65, K77, KC4, KS4, J1, C11, S1, S2, S4, S11, B7, 14, 16, 22, 25, 39, Z, K	M1, M4, M5, M6, M8, M11, M12, M17, 265, 271, 279, 285, 289, 295, 298, 306, 309, 310, 311, 320, 332, 365	P-0, P-1, P1, P-2, P-10, P-11, P-17, D-1, J2, J-3, J-J4, J10, J12, J12, J14, J19, J20, J-30, C23, 402, 459
Bolt	12, 25, 40, 55, 60, 95, 96, 105, 121	252, 253, 256, 285, 288, 299, 302, 313, 346	401, 407, 464
Bolt Sleeve	8, 12, 14, 20, 21, 43, 47, 61, 96,	234, 250, 251, 254, 261, 264, 278, 284, 285, 291,	400, 402, 406, 468, 469

PART	EDDYSTONE	REMINGTON	WINCHESTER
	110, 113, 118, 134	316, 330, 333, 350	
Bolt Stop	11, 25, 42, 48, 51, 52, 58, 77, 94, 121	259, 262, 264, 272, 284, 316, 333, 335, 350, 359	407
Bolt Stop Spring Rest	no eagle heads	265, 266, 274, 297, 303, 305, 327	422, 463, 473
Butt Plate	13, 17, 30, 32, 33, 46, 47, 53, 71, 86, 120	226, 303, 305, 312, 326	illegible or absent
Cocking Piece	09, 15, 26, 27, 28, 38, 46, 50, 51, 59, 66, 73, 76, 84, 86, 87, 88, 108, 109, 120, 126, 138, 158	259, 262, 264, 265, 269, 272, 290, 292, 306, 308, 313, 336, 360, 372, 375	400, 401, 402, 406, 420, 421, 425, 426, 460, 463, 486, 512
Extractor	19, 24, 42, 113, 128	279, 293, 297, 314, 322, 325, 350	421, 425, 471, 492
Floor Plate	2, 36, 44, 65, 66, 70, 80, 85	205, 212, 253, 257, 263, 267, 269, 270, 273, 279, 287, 291, 293, 314, 315, 322, 324, 325, 336, 341, 394	405, 406, 408, 423, 425, 455, 461
Follower	5, 31, 39, 46, 58, 68, 69, 70, 75, 78, 102, 111, 141, 147	226, 250, 256, 258, 259, 260, 262, 266, 278, 280, 282, 282, 301, 320, 326, 329	420, 427, 470, 472
Front Sight Carrier	14, 17, 19, 36, 39, 40, 41, 58, 63, 81, 82, 84, 88, 115, 116	232, 252, 288, 292, 299, 302, 330, 344, 346	421, 425, 469
Lower Band	5, 15, 22, 23, 37, 55, 87, 197	252, 258, 280, 282, 290, 292, 299, 302, 329, 344	420, 424, 426, 427, 470
Lower Swivel Base	no eagle heads	279, 322	423, 465, 473
Receiver bottom, aft of recoil lug	1, 2, 3, 5, 14, 49	233, 253, 265, 274, 283, 291, 295, 318, 321	419,
Receiver, top and left	K, K4, K5, K7, K8, K47, A4, A6, A66, B1, 5, 22, 58	F2, F3, F4, F6, F7, F10, F24, 12, 14, 16	J2, J12, J224, P2, P4, P5, P16, P-24, 419, 442, 462
Safety Lock	4, 13, 23, 25, 29, 37, 40, 46, 57, 59, 88, 90, 92, 98	266, 274, 297, 303, 305, 310, 312, 319, 327	409, 420, 422, 423, 428, 429, 473
Safety Lock Holder	no eagle heads	250, 260, 275, 280, 282, 287, 293, 301, 329, 358	409, 422, 424, 428, 429, 473
Safety Lock Plunger	no eagle heads	251, 261, 264, 273, 278, 284, 316, 347, 367	420, 426, 428
Sear	no eagle heads	262, 264, 269, 272, 277, 336	423, 428, 430, 436, 460, 474
Stock, aft	A, C3, C7, C14, C23, C56, C61, 1M, 1W, 4A, 9A,	300, 301, 324, 391	504, 507, 512, 513, 521, 527, 531, 544

PART	EDDYSTONE	REMINGTON	WINCHESTER
	9B, 9F, 050, 057, 21, 25, 27, 73		
Stock, fwd.	A, B, C, 1, 6, P35	330, 339, 399	500, 543, 566
Stock, unknown pos.		212, 230, 232, 250, 251, 252, 254, 256, 259, 260, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 272, 275, 278, 279, 280, 282, 284, 285, 289, 290, 291, 292, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 306, 310, 311, 313, 314, 320, 322, 325, 327, 328, 329, 335, 344, 347, 360, 365, 365, 367, 372, 375	
Striker	2, 5, 13, 16, 20, 23, 31, 32, 36, 39, 42, 45, 46, 50, 52, 58, 60, 62, 68, 70, 72, 83, 90, 96, 116, 120	230, 252, 270, 292, 298, 299, 302, 313, 320, 330, 350	406, 408, 420, 421, 422, 425, 428, 431, 461
Trigger	11, 21, 31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 45, 53, 57, 62, 69, 72, 74, 80, 84, 91, 102, 142	254, 260, 262, 263, 264, 268, 277, 284, 314, 316, 325, 336, 341, 342, 372	405, 437
Trigger Guard	21, 22, 23, 38, 40, 45, 46, 47, 51, 72, 74, 76, 98, 101, 122, 140, 142	212, 267, 270, 273, 279, 287, 291, 293, 314, 322, 324, 341	400, 402, 405, 409, 461, 462
Upper Band	01, 7, 30, 45, 54, 76, 100	251, 272, 273, 278, 286, 288, 316, 339	404, 409, 434, 469

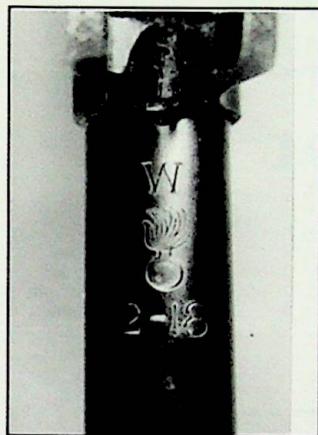
### *Proof Marks*

Specifications<sup>6</sup> called for the barrel to be submitted for proof "breeched up to the body [receiver] and assembled with the bolt, backsight, bolt stop and safety catch groups, and trigger action." Proof firing was with "a cartridge of the U. S. standard, average proof pressure of 70,000 lbs. per square inch". Upon passing, the barrel, receiver, and bolt were marked with the shell and flame proof mark. The proof mark on the receiver was required to be visible on the assembled rifle, and it is seen on the left side, or rail, of the receiver opposite the bolt. The bolt proof mark is on the handle. The circled "P" found on the bottom of the wrist of rifles made in government armories, such as Springfield and Rock Island, is not on original, correct M1917 rifles. If it is present, it signifies proof testing after overhaul.

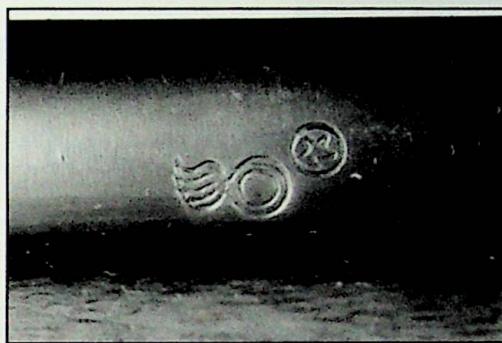
### *Final Inspection*

Final inspection at government armories resulted in a stamping on the left side of the stock forward of the wrist. In World War One, it was the inspector's initials in a rectangle at Springfield Armory. At Rock Island Arsenal, it was the initials above the year, all in a rectangle. These stampings are

known as cartouches. There was no corresponding cartouche applied to M1917 rifles. A War Department file<sup>7</sup> of August 1917 describes the final inspection process and states that "If satisfactory, the rifle will receive the finished view-mark...." which is shown parenthetically as a short, very broad arrow pointed right, with a thin, hollow line crossing behind the arrow diagonally from high left to low right. The location of the mark is not given. No such mark has been observed. In April 1918, an Ordnance Department publication<sup>8</sup> was printed describing specifications of the Model 1917 rifle. The final inspection section ends with "If satisfactory, the rifle will receive the finished view mark (Eagle's Crest)." Again, no location is given. The mark could be one of the two eagle heads on the bottom of the stock, or one of the two on the left receiver rail. Whatever the case, there is no obvious final inspection mark comparable to the cartouche applied at the government armories.



*Winchester barrel showing date of manufacture (Feb., 1918) and the Ordnance escutcheon which, in this position, is **not** the firing proof mark; that is on the rear of the barrel, covered by the hand guard.*



*Shell and Flame firing proof mark on a Winchester receiver. The circled star is a Winchester mark that was discontinued between serial numbers 141563 and 145950.*

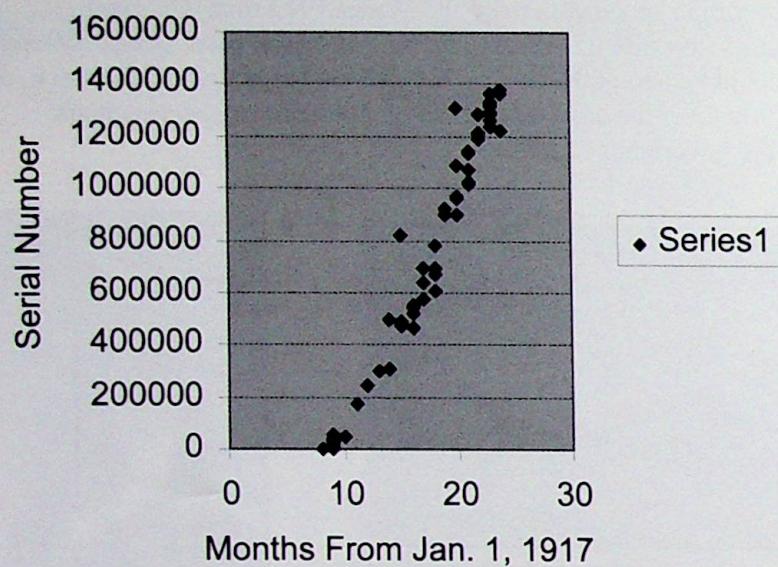


*The Ordnance escutcheon (Shell and Flame) on this bolt handle indicates that this bolt passed the firing proof test.*

### **Serial Number – Barrel Date Correlation**

A scatter diagram (below) plots 60 Eddystone barrel dates against their corresponding serial numbers. To qualify, the barrel had to appear original to the receiver. The correlation is obviously good.

## Eddystone Ser. No./Barrel Date Correlation



### Summary

The "correct" Model 1917 rifle has a blued (browned) finish, except for some late Eddystones. All the parts that are marked will bear the same manufacturer's initial. There will be no circled proof P or cartouche-like stamp on the stock. Empirical evidence indicates that increased serial numbers are accompanied by increases in barrel dates.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Williams, William Bradford, 1921, *Munitions Manufacture in the Philadelphia Ordnance District*: William Bradford Williams, Philadelphia, PA, p. 516.

<sup>2</sup> *Specifications for U.S. Rifle Model 1917, April 18, 1918*: War Department form 3098, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., Schedule A, p. 15-16. The Description and Rules manual (p. 3) says there are 96 component parts. However, the Specifications lists the drawing numbers for each manufacturer for each part.

<sup>3</sup> Clawson, Charles W., 1991, *Colt .45 Service Pistols, Model of 1911 and 1911 A1*: C. W. Clawson, Ft. Wayne, IN, p. 216.

<sup>4</sup> Clawson, 1991, p. 241-242.

<sup>5</sup> *Specifications for U. S. Rifle, Model of 1917, 0.0*. War Dept. document R.474.4/82 1, dated August 1917, p. 4 ~ A nearly identical document dated April 17, 1918 says the same thing, without specifying what the "Government mark" looks like.

<sup>6</sup> *Specifications for U. S. Rifle* dated August, 1917, p. 4-5. The similar document of April 17, 1918 requires proof pressure of only 68,000 lbs. per square inch.

<sup>7</sup> *Specifications for U. S. Rifle, Model of 1917, 0.0*. War Dept. document R.474.4/821, dated August 1917, p. 6.

<sup>8</sup> *Specifications for U. S. Rifle Model 1917*: War Department, April 17, 1918, Form 3098, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 27 p.

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY  
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

PACKING SLIP

Date Sept 4/17 Case No. 162

**10 Rifles, U. S. Model 1917**

**W - Cal. 30**

Numbered as follows :

1942  
3048 ✓  
372 ✓  
2753  
1333

4480 ✓  
1840 ✓  
3913 ✓  
1773  
4305 ✓

Remarks:

Packed by Leonard

Inspected by W. Harr

Packing slip from case of Winchester M1917 rifles drawn by Co. B, 302<sup>nd</sup> Engineers AEF on Dec. 4, 1917. "W - Cal. 30" may reflect receiver marking on these early rifles. (from NA Record Group 391 Entry 2124A Box 2887 Document 93)

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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 MARCH 1, 2004.

### DCM RIFLE & PISTOL SALES

1264852	M1903 NMP	B. A. Fleming
1273286	M1903 Spt	B. F. Knox
1318300	M1903 Spt	W. H. Smith
1344309	M1903 Spt	J. E. Wingard
1369049	M1903 A1 NM	1st Batt., New York Naval Militia
1402708	M1903 ST	F. E. Mosher
1498093	M1903 A1 NM	J. J. Madden
6515	M1922 M2NRAP	E. Lavoie

### Civil War

13227	Burnside carbine	Co. D, 14th Pennsylvania Vol. Cav
2670	Spencer carbine	6th Indep. Co. Ohio Sharp Shooters
3706	Spencer carbine	Co. B, 9th Michigan Vol. Cav.
20134	Spencer carbine	Co. G, 12th Illinois Vol. Cav.
20221	Spencer carbine	Co. G, 12th Illinois Vol. Cav.

### Spanish-American War

92930	Colt SAA revolver	Co E, 32nd U. S. Vol. Inf.
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### U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, etc.

482951	M1 rifle	Marine Detachment U.S.S Lexington
5311648	M1 NM rifle	Phoenix Rifle & Pistol Club
122192	M1884 Cadet rifle	University of Minnesota
944501	M1903 rifle	USMC San Diego

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3) Standard Nomenclature List No. B-3, U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903 - Parts Accessories and Appendages (April 14, 1923) .....	7.50	11) "Historical Notes Rel. to Rifles, Cal. .22" ..	6.00
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b) Shotguns .....	3.00	14) "Summary of Issues of the Pistol, Auto., Cal. .380, Colt to General Officers" .....	36.00
5) "Shotguns - Development, Procurement and Production — 1917-1945" — Project Supporting Paper No. 42, October 1945 .....	7.00	15) Project Supporting Paper — Bayonets, Knives, and Scabbards — 1917 - August 1945 .....	35.00
6) "History of Small Arms Procurement, 1939 -1945", written and compiled by S. H. Beach, 1st Lt., Ord. Dept. — M1903 Rifle, M1 Carbine, M1 Rifle, and Rifle Grenade Launchers .....	6.50	16) Project Supporting Paper — U.S. Carbine, cal. .30 — Narrative & Exhibits, July 1945 .....	37.00
7) Official USMC correspondence on Sniper Rifles (incl. Ord. Maint. Bulletin) .....	25.50	17) Ordnance Field Service BASE SHOP DATA, U.S. RIFLE, M1903A1, Jan. 1943 .....	16.50
8) "Rifle, U.S. Caliber .30 M1917 — Development and Production — 1917 - 1945" — Project Supporting Paper No. 37, August 1945 .....	16.00	18) Desc. & Instr. for the Use and Care of the Winchester S. S. Rifle Cal. .22 .....	4.00
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