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Collector

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**Cover:** U. S. Burnside Carbine Number 2697.

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR



*And*

## *Springfield Research Service Newsletter*

Number 158

March 2019

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## **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES**

SRS has been gathering data on many more 1903 Springfield rifles, including an extensive amount of National Match, special rifles, specific data on development of rifles for international matches, and the historical information on work at Springfield Armory. We plan on reviewing all of the data and also gathering additional information on World War II rifles, including the Model 1903A3 and the Garand. We will publish as much as possible, and it appears that there will be some information in all of the new issues.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

U.S. Postal First Class Mail is used. Please send any corrections of addresses to us at any time. We are receiving more post office notices that mail cannot be delivered. We have no way to find a new address without a forwarding address.

Our policy of putting the number indicating the last issue of a subscription has had some mishaps that we are correcting. We want to correct any data that is overlooked or missing. Please send comments. There are some SRS products that are out of stock.

### **PLEASE SEND AN INQUIRY IF YOU ARE MISSING ANY ITEM THAT YOU ORDERED.**

Please send us any corrections for address changes, holding subscriptions, or temporary addresses.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

Issue number 158 dated March 2019 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing

facility for March 1, 2019, and we rely on the Post Office to deliver first class mail as soon as they are able.

## **ADVERTISING**

Our advertising deadlines are usually the Friday two weeks before the date of a publication. The projected mailing dates are the first week of March, June, September, and December of each year.

There are four quarterly issues each year.

## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS**

The basic letters are \$50.00; sales letters with a document are \$65.00; and research letters run from \$175.00 and up. There are some instances where research requires us to spend days at U.S. Government buildings. These efforts may require additional costs for rare or historic weapons.

Research letters that include USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5th, and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, and Spanish American War may need extensive time and extra work. Other unique units may require special research. It requires time to travel to government facilities and we must comply with government rules for handling of all documents.

A basic letter is data from our in-house files. It is limited, and there is no way for us to hold the thousands or even millions of pages of data in government buildings. A research letter requires us to travel to a government facility and request

to search and retrieve the specific copies needed for research.

We try to copy the specifics of the pertinent pages and include them with any SRS letter. In many cases the data may have a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations. Some data is very old and in poor condition. We will try to copy if possible or take a photo. There are strict rules on using government copiers. Odd or large sizes and bound pages are often not allowed to be copied and we must use a camera under existing light conditions.

## COMMENTS AND INPUTS

We always want comments.

[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com)

Please send by email, or U.S. mail to SRS Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818. Mail may take an extended time.

The size of government data files is enormous, and research takes time. This issue is our limiting factor.

We may also print some data and ask for comments from our readers. There are a lot of very knowledgeable collectors with a wealth of information including sightings of rare weapons and information in personal collections. Comments are always welcome.

Recent efforts require special work to copy degraded original documents and higher costs. Some papers are no longer available to copy and some documents have been moved to other government buildings. It is overwhelming. In some cases we cannot duplicate data with security classification and other rules. This requires us to declassify and copy before being allowed to

leave a building or work area. Checking our identification, and using special stamps is required.

## Letters Written on Weapons During the Last Research Period

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. A1, National Match, 1937, New, With Target and Stargauge Record Card. Serial Number 1 498 669. Sold to Robert S. Brodhead, Strafford Ave., Strafford, Pennsylvania. September 10, 1937.

Type: Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 264 573. Sold to Earl Genereaux, Port Clinton, OH. September 11, 1924.

I have searched, and the document on serial number 1 264 573 disappeared from the Springfield records.

Type: U.S., Cal. 30, Krag Rifle, Model 1898, Serial number 475 402. Issued to Company C, 18th Engineers RY, American Expeditionary Force. October 20, 1917.

Type: Whitney, U.S. Navy, Serial Number 26222. Accepted by Washington Navy Yard December 8, 1864.

Type: Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. A1, National Match, 1937, (used) Serial Number 1 498 966. Sold To: Mr. E. M. Warren, Mary Ella Hall, Kannapolis, N. Car. Sold by O.S.O. NM 1937, Camp Parry, Ohio. September 15, 1937.

Type: Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Serial Number 1 330 755. Sent To State of Massachusetts. February 20, 1933.

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 158-3*

Type: Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Serial Number 1 265 703. Sold to John F. Dinatale, 26 Cresent St., Fitchburg, Mass. Sept. 17, 1937.

Type: Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Serial Number 1 265 704. Sold to A. N. Pickard, 304 Wooley Road, Oxnard, California. February 20, 1936.

Type: Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Serial Number 1 265 705. Sold to J. A. McKean, 965 Ridge Avenue, Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. March 12, 1936.

Type American Model Smith & Wesson, U.S., Serial Number 1615. Delivered to Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts, March 1871.

Type Rifle, U.S., Cal. 22, M1 N.R.A., Serial Number 19 687. Sold to Harry E. Hawes, New York, N.Y. February 27, 1931.

Type U.S., Cal. 30, Krag Rifle, Model 1898, Serial number 163 756. Issued to Company F. 29th U.S. Volunteer Infantry. 1899.

(the following data includes a history of the 29th Regiment and all personnel and officers. It is intended to provide data for our readers to have a complete understanding of the Spanish American War unit).

The 29th Regiment was organized under The act of Congress March 2, 1899, by General Order 122. That was when the first rumbles of war with Spain began. The Act authorized the Congress on March 2, 1899, by General Order 122, authorized the forming on July 5, 1899, at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga. The original plan was to form the regiment from the following five states; Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and

Mississippi, but such slow progress was made that it was decided to include other States, in consequence of which there were enlisting stations opened in Tennessee, the Carolinas, and as far north as Indiana and Illinois. The 2d and 3d Georgia Regiments which were mustered out on the previous summer furnished most of the men. Two hundred and twenty-three were enlisted at Fort McPherson.

This Regiment was organized for service in the Philippine Islands. The Regiment was completed about the middle of September, and was ordered to proceed to San Francisco, Cal., where they would embark on transports for the Philippine Islands.

The 29th Regiment was organized under personal directions of Colonel Edward E. Hardin. The success which awarded Colonel Hardin's efforts is an excellent proof of his skill as a soldier and a man. Colonel Hardin's military career shows him to be a man of very sturdy character, having climbed steadily from one position to another until he has reached the exalted, though well-merited, position, as Colonel.

He enter the Military Academy of Kentucky July 1, 1870, was promoted to 2d Lieutenant 7th Infantry June 17, 1874, was promoted to 1st Lieutenant March 4, 1881, and was promoted to Captain 7th Infantry July 31, 1894. He served in the 2d New York Infantry May 17th, 1898, to October 25 of the same year. He was made Colonel of the 29th Regiment July 5, 1899.

The organization of the 29th Regiment reflects great credit on those having it in charge, also on the men composing it. After being drilled about four weeks the Regiment

presented the appearance of well-drilled regulars. It is expected that this Regiment will distinguish itself in the field.

#### STAFF AND FIELD OFFICERS

Col. E. E. Harden, Major C.L.G. Anderson,  
Capt. Geo. E. Lovell, A.Q.M., J.M.  
Kimbrough, Jr. B.A., Lieut-Col. H.H.  
Sargent, Capt. J.C. Minor, Ass't Surg.,  
Lt. T.H. Underwood, A.R.A., E.H. Aimand,  
Act. B. A., Major D.B. Case, Major E.M.  
Johnson, Jr., Lieut. J.L. Sandford, Asst. S.,  
Lieut W.K. Wheatley, Com'y, W.P. Screws,  
Act. B.A.

#### NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF 29TH

U. S. V.

J.T. Lucas, Reg. Q.M. Sergt., Jas Stewart,  
Reg. Com. Sergt., C.M. Pendleton, 1st Bat.  
S.M., H.S. Brown, 2d Bat. S.M., C.S.  
Holmes, 3d Bat. S.M., Mail Clerk- Private  
Hutchinson, Colonel's Orderly- D.D.  
Strong.

#### OFFICERS' SCHOOL

Major David B. Case, Captain Holman G.  
Purinton, Captain Jas. M. Liddell, Captain  
Wm. F. Faulkner, 1st Lieutenant Edward H.  
Almand, 1st Lieutenant Robt. J. Arnold, 1st  
Lieutenant Lawrence L. Carson, 1st  
Lieutenant Jas. R. Rash, 2d Lieutenant Robt.  
O. Patterson, 2d Lieutenant Geo. M. Holley,  
2d Lieutenant John M. Miller.

#### COMPANY F, 29TH REG. U. S. V.

M. H. Wilson, 1st Lieut., D. Shields,  
Captain, R. S. Pike, 2d Lieut.  
Sergeants. C.H. Staddard, 1st Sergt., C.W.  
Rheberg, Harry W. McKenley, A. Pugh,  
Q.M. Sergt., Thomas Maelory, Harry E.  
Core.

#### Corporals.

L.E. Oliver, Marshall H. Baker, Thos. C.  
Williams, Benjamin F. Waller, David B.  
Harrell, Robt. D. Jackson, W. Cossell, Jas.

Maxwell, Sidney H. Rogers, David F.  
Woodward, Louis S. Coloin, E.W.  
McDaniel, Elmo T. Hook.  
Artificier. Patrick Sweeney.

Cooks.

Elmo Murray, Wm. Reed.

Musicians.

Wm. J. Crawford, W.R. Andrews.

Privates.

John W. Anderson, John Anderson, Carl  
Attinger, Geo. S. Barton, Chas. J. Beck,  
Howard Bibie, Archie R. Bratton, Chas. P.  
Bratton, Edward C. Brooks, J.S. Caldwell,  
R. Campbell, R.B. Caswell, J.D. Chriswell,  
Wm. C. Daily, Wm. DeLoach, John W.  
Dorsey, Thos. B. Ellis, K.J. Followell, I.S.  
Grant, John G. Greiser, Jno. I. Hall, Henry  
L. Haigwood, Wm. L. Hampton, Wm. D.  
Harwick, Wylie Henderson, E.A. Herz, A.  
Hill, W.H. Hodges, C.A. Hopkins, Wm. P.  
Howard, C.M. Huff, Wesley M. Hunt, Robt.  
F. Jackson, Jr., Wm. M. Jenkins, T.G.  
Johnson, Jno. S. Jones, Francis L. Judd,  
Theodore Kapman, Wm. B. Kemp, Edward  
H. Kidd, Eliza H. Kirk, Brune Kraft, Robt.  
Krendel, Curtis E. Long, Pat McCarthy,  
Henry McDaniel, Abner D. McMielon, Fred  
Maas, John A. Malone, Fred H. Millians,  
Earnest Milligan, Jas. H. Mitchell, John E.  
Myers, Edward J. Naegels, B.J. Nelson,  
Ervin Niles, T.L. Osborne, Cyrus  
Pemberton, J.H. Pool, Lovick B. Renfroe,  
Archie Rice, Hinam Rice, Jasper Searcy,  
Noah Sevy, Ben J. Seay, Jeff T. Short, John  
P. Short, J.L. Simpkins, Simeon Schooly,  
E.F. Smiley, J.W. Sorrell, Thos. J. Spivey,  
John Sweeney, Ernest S. Taylor, Y. Tell  
Templeton, Samuel M. Turner, Frank  
Weigans, David S. Whetstone, Wm. F.  
Willett, John Shew, E.M. Murphy.

The Philippine American War began on February 4, 1899. The 29th U.S. Volunteers were formed in March of 1899, and served in the Philippine American War. The Philippine American War lasted until 1902, though some fighting occurred as late as 1906. It was fought only in the Philippines, and was a much more brutal and bloody conflict than was the Spanish American War. "Patrick McSherry"

<pmcsherry@widdall.com>

The SOUVENIR, 29TH Regiment United States Volunteers, which was put together in 1899 was the actual roster of all the men in the 29th Regiment at Ft. McPherson.

Reference: Philippine American War - USGenWeb Archives  
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/military/spanish/29th1899.txt> - 34k , Similar pages, Georgia Military Roll 29th Regiment 1899 Philippine American War File ... The 29th U.S. Volunteers were formed in March of 1899. \*\*\*\*\*

American Model Smith & Wesson, U.S., Serial Number 1615, Delivered to Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. March 1871.

Rifle, U.S., National Match Rifle, serial number 1 342 755. Sold to Frank B. Perry, Providence, R. I. September 20, 1930.

Model 1903 Sporting Rifle NRA Type with target, and stargauge record card, barrel drilled at the shoulder at the rear for Fecker telescope sight block, and a third set of tapping from center of rear mount, serial number 1 406 902. Sold to A. G. Stevens, 46 Manchester Street, Manchester, New Hampshire. May 13, 1933. This Sporter is one of the few documented rifles with a factory drilling and tapping for the Fecker scope.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. 22, M1 N.R.A., Serial Number 19 687. Sold to Harry E. Hawes, New York, N.Y. February 27, 1931.

Rifle, U.S., National Match Rifle, Serial Number 1 342 755. Sold to Frank B. Perry, Providence, R. I. September 20, 1930.

Rifle, U.S., Sporting NRA Rifle, Serial Number 1 367 063. Sold to Howard Dow Clute, Arlington, Iowa. April 15, 1932.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 277 573. Sold to F. E. Rotenberry, Schenectady, N.Y. December 10, 1927.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

Our efforts are based on data from United States documents in the U.S. Archives and other military sources. All serial number information comes from government documents. There are many weapon documents that come from sources that describe a weapon without a specific serial number.

More documents may exist and we continually look for information.

## SHIPPING COMMENTS

SRS uses the U.S. Post office for magazine delivery and delivery of most of our products.

If you use PAYPAL, Please check off the correct boxes for your specific instructions. We receive complaints from both subscriber and PAYPAL: a subscriber may accidentally check off the automatic payment box and does not want that service.

This problem can be corrected by the subscriber by contacting PAYPAL and correcting their ordering status. SRS cannot change or start an automatic payment for a subscriber.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE SUPPORT

SRS uses RACKNER SOLUTIONS for our software support and protection of our database. <https://racknersolutions.com>  
More efforts continue and support is needed for software and other computer efforts.

**Collectors Note 158-2**  
M1 Garand inspectors marks on stocks.



**Above:** SA over GAW with crossed canons left of cartouche. Colonel George A. Woody Serial Numbers from 1.8m to 3.3m.



**Above:** SA over NFR with crossed canons. Brigadier General Norman F. Ramsey serial numbers from 3.3 m through the end of World War II production.



**Above:** Stock marking with crossed canons on an early International Harvester rifle. The marking is by itself on the left of the stock.



**Above:** Machine cut for clip latch (oval bottom).



**Above:** SA over GAW with crossed canons on the right. Colonel George A. Woody. World War II production.



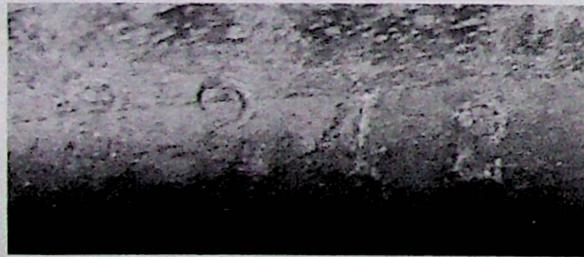
**Above:** SA over GHS with crossed canons on the right. Brigadier General Gilbert H. Stewart. Serial numbers from about 80K to 700K.



**Above:** Crossed canons on the left side of the stock.



**Above:** Small crossed canons on the bottom of the pistol grip from World War II production.



**Above:** Markings 2242 in the barrel channel of an International Harvester rifle.

*Courtesy:* Jeff Perkins

## The Model 1903 “SPECIAL” Rifle

By William R. Hansen

**Forward:** The late Frank Mallory of Springfield Research Service (SRS) fame is generally credited with introducing the M1903 collecting world to a bonanza of Ordnance information and practices not generally known about DCM rifle sales. His 1976 “**Summary of D.C.M. RIFLE SALES/1922-1942**” (...appreciated in some circles as the *little blue book*, aka the **Blue Book**) was a proverbial eye opener. Moreover, it became a profoundly essential addition to every serious collector’s library.

Still much sought after today, the now out of print **Blue Book** has not only filled a huge void of valuable historical data buried at the National Archives, but stirred the souls of most every M1903 collector to new heights. While answering a myriad of questions, it also raised the breadth and depth of inquiry to another level.

One of the principal features of Mallory’s work was enabling collector access to the original rifle sales records sold via the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM). This official record normally consisted of a brief description of the rifle, and was type-cast into 18 distinct nomenclature categories based on Ordnance/Springfield Armory (SA) rifle descriptions. One of them was the **M1903 (Special)** abbreviated ...**SPL**.

**Introduction:** It should first be understood that for a rifle to be designated a “**SPL**”, it could be for almost any reason representing a departure from standard Springfield Armory (SA) production practice. In other words, if a customer requested special services as a condition of sale requiring alterations or other non-conforming piece-work that wasn’t standard

practice, then, it automatically became a candidate for a **SPL** or perhaps a **MOD** (“Modified”). Until 1924, the SA had no comprehensive fee structure in place for a growing list of extended personal services then being requested by the DCM/NRA.

It should also be understood that many **SPL** requests came from known personages familiar to Armory staff having the clout or influence to penetrate Ordnance insiders for special work from the SA. Often, these were prior SA employees, staff and military officers having a relationship loyalty or favor originating from past service. Then again, notable government officials, world class marksmen and others of renown could also work magic through the Armory’s back door. It wasn’t necessarily without cost, but seldom did it suffer accommodation neglect during the mid-1920’s.

After having viewed a number of **Blue Book** cited **SPL** projects, the one thing that becomes evident is criteria inconsistency in terms of whether the end result deserved the **SPL** nomenclature or not. Use of the designation seemed to be whimsically discretionary depending on how its definition was individually applied or perceived at the time. In many cases, work was given a **SPL** status even though defining it by the dominant character of the rifle’s primary description would suffice.

For reader interest, the **Blue Book** contains 32 identified rifles whose typology was listed with the M1903 “Special” (**SPL**) nomenclature. They are shown in the table on the next page. However, it is a known fact

SRS - DCM RIFLE SALES of "Special" Rifles			
Blue Book Page	Number of Rifles	Serial Numbers Listed	Commentary
6	2	1,230,023; 1,231,287	
7	4	1,245,471; 1,245,614; 1,245,635; 1,245,921	
8	1	1,250,131	
9	2	1,254,449; 1,254,707	
10	0	0	
11	1	1,258,025	
12	0	0	
13	2	1264385; 1,264,389	
14	0	0	
15	18*	1,265,703 to 1,265,722	*All SN's in consecutive order; 720 and 721 not listed, but used
30	1	1,282,757	
51	1	1,404,622	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>		

that many more were not listed... having fallen between the cracks for a variety of reasons. Whether the work was done off the record or with Ordnance approval, Mallory was never able to capture every certified sale or effort resulting in a "SPL" rifle. Many have surfaced over the years and authenticated without being listed in the *Blue Book*.

The 32 identified rifles cover a period of time ranging from 1922 through 1931, with most manufactured before mid-1925. A few of them are celebrated rifles containing extensive custom work. Others only received minor additions or changes. However, over one-half of the rifles consisted only of installing a Lyman 48 rear sight pursuant to Armory authorization in 1924 to perform such extra work for DCM/NRA customers.

To illustrate the contrasts and differences, two examples are being presented in this narrative. The first one is an extraordinary M1903 "Special" (SPL) rifle along with identification of the original owner who purchased it. This owner was especially acknowledged by Mr. Mallory on page 4 of the *Blue Book*. Key features of the rifle are revealed for reader interest. The second one is also interesting, inasmuch as one might question why it was given a SPL identity at all.

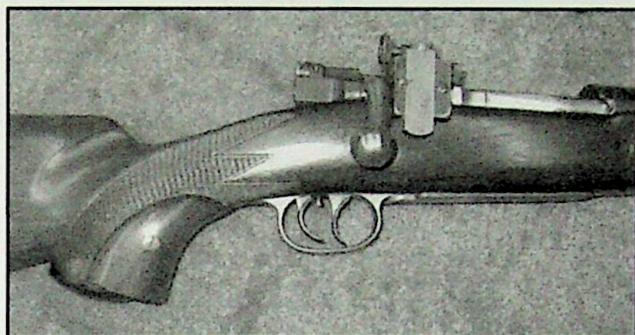
In closing the introduction, it is also recognized that some SPL rifles may have received upgrades and alterations after the initial owner passed it on to others. Therefore, not all change distinctions can be attributed to original Armory related work.

### No. 1: U.S. Rifle Model 1903, Cal. .30, SN 1254449

This rifle was formally authorized by the Ordnance department on March 2, 1923 at

the behest of the venerable **Capt. Edward C. Crossman** (1881-1939). It was principally

manufactured at the Springfield Armory under contract, but in coordination at the owner's request for special services from private gunsmith(s). The sales date for delivery of this rifle to his California residence was April 9, 1923.



Right Side View- SN 1254449

Needless to say to informed collectors, Capt. Crossman (the "**X-man**") had become a well-known and respected insider whose requests for special services were seldom denied. Capt. Crossman was a recognized marksman, inspiring leader, Ordnance sycophant, studious gunsmith, skilled ballistian and a prolific author. Moreover, he was generally regarded as the dean of gun writers for the period from WW1 to his death. He had an enormous nation-wide fan-base...and the only writer of his era with the unique skills to make a living writing for various magazines and periodicals. Needless to say, no further biographic elaboration of his persona is justified for purposes of this narrative.

In comparison with most **SPL** rifles, this one is unique inasmuch as it's essentially a complete custom made rifle manufactured from the ground-up pursuant to his specifications. As a renowned marksman, Crossman was very much enamored by SA production of the M1922, Heavy Barrel (HB) "*Match*" rifle series, for which a limited edition of 100 had been recently manufactured in 24 inch barrel length. He

learned the rifle had also been groomed as the "...basis for the new *International Match rifles*" (IM) planned for use at the 1922 International Matches in Milan, Italy. But, he wanted one with a 30 inch barrel meeting IM specifications along with his personal criteria for long range "*Free*" rifle use.

With assistance from Major Julian S.



Hatcher and others in the Ordnance Department, Capt. Crossman was able to secure

Ordnance authority to have this M1922 style HB style rifle made to his specifications under Job and Procurement Authority "**J77/ OB; 3324-13**"... as stamped under the barrel (see photo above). For those collectors familiar with the Model 1922, .30 Cal. HB "*Match*" rifle, you'll note a similarity with the "**J73/3202**" Procurement Authority assigned the 24 inch barrel limited edition the SA manufactured the previous year.

The rifle is considered one-of-a-kind whose components and description are further detailed below. It is also noted that this was not the only custom HB rifle made by the SA for the **X-man**. He was also a serious cal. 22 marksman, but that's another story.

**STOCK:** The stock is basically a standard Model 1922 HB "*Match*" stock with finger grooves and stock bolts added, then remodeled to suit the owner's physiological specifications. The factory oversized finger grooved stock was shortened  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to provide a final dimension from trigger to the center of the buttplate of 12-7/8 inches. He also had it checkered around both the wrist and forearm beneath the finger grooves, along with adding a grip cap. In addition, the

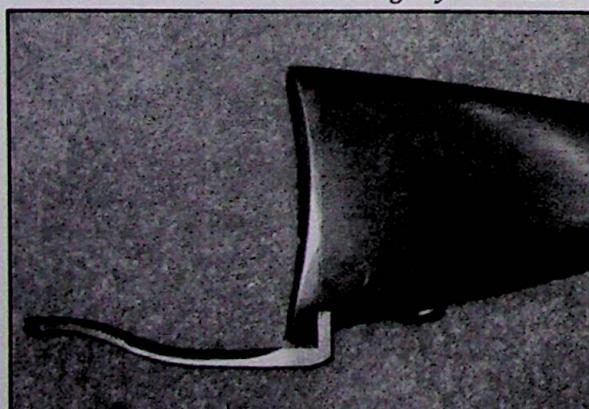
pistol grip-wrist-comb area was modified to replicate the special configuration standardized for the 1922 IM stocks.

Lastly, the grip was supplemented with the addition of a hand-molded grip filler as shown in the enclosed photo to enlarge the grip diameter while moving his trigger finger closer to the trigger. By the way, this was to



meet Crossman's personal specifications as cited in a January 15, 1924 American Rifleman article... *"My own grips are 3.5 inches from trigger to nearest point of grip cap. Always are the grips too thin. There is not a lick of sense in any grip less than 4-7/8 inches around for other than kids".*

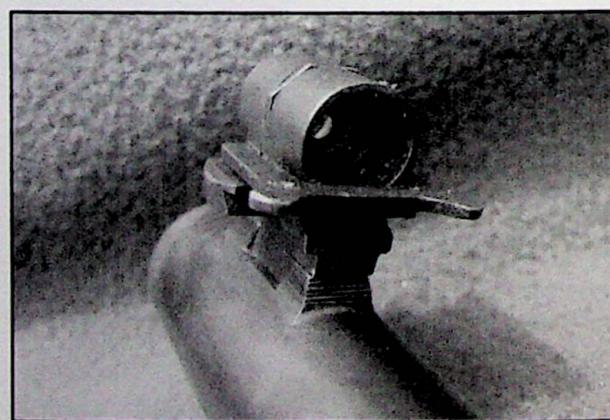
**BUTT PLATE:** Crossman was on record a number of times regarding his favor of SA's use of a shotgun style butt plate. In the same article cited above, he asserts this "...shotgun type permits ...bedding solidly to the shoulder...without added agony". While



he chose use of the adjustable extended prong

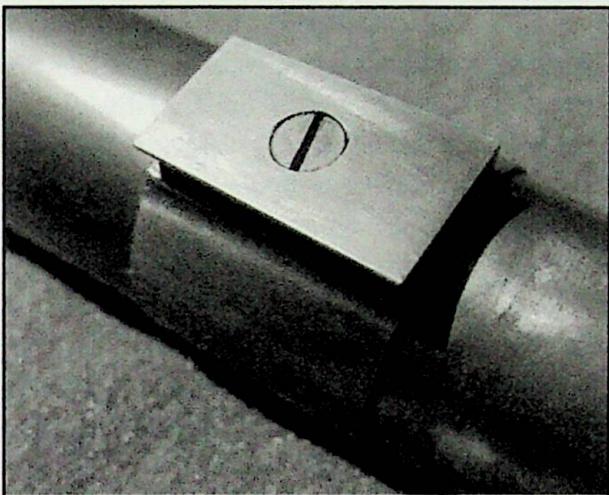
buttplate system of the 1922 IM program for offhand shooting, he insisted it be adapted to the SA standard all-steel M1922 shotgun buttplate as opposed to the red fibered version used specifically for the IM rifles. As the photo herein reveals, the installation was truly magnificent work by Armory staff. The prong is stamped No. 5.

**BARREL:** His choice was for a 30 inch using the HB dimensions being 1.25 inches diameter at the receiver with a straight taper to 0.875 inches diameter at the front. However, beyond that, the barrel was made up special for all features involving the sighting system. First of all, the barrel blank used enabled the front sight base to be machined as an integral part of the barrel in an identical fashion as the Model 1922, 24 inch HB "Match" rifles. The photograph below clearly depicts this unique application machined on a NON-24 inch barrel. At present, there is no evidence that any other 30 inch barrel was similarly manufactured at the SA, thus making this a one-of-a-kind barrel.

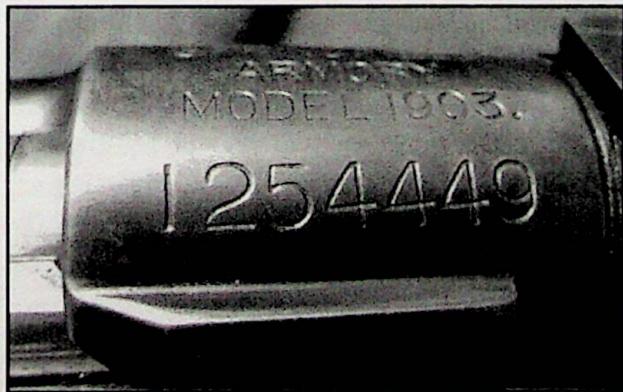


Secondly, Crossman wasn't satisfied with having standard Winchester A5 scope blocks installed. According to a personal evaluation of this rifle by the late Michael Petrov, the rifle barrel had been unquestionably sublet in a coordinated work effort with the SA for scope block installation

by O. E. Neidner, who frequently worked closely with SA staff. Neidner then manufactured the two existing sweat-in-place barrel collars positioned 7 inches apart and secured with one screw through each block into the rifle barrel. The collars were machined to carry his celebrated tapered dovetail scope blocks for which he cut and adapted to the band (See photo hereon).



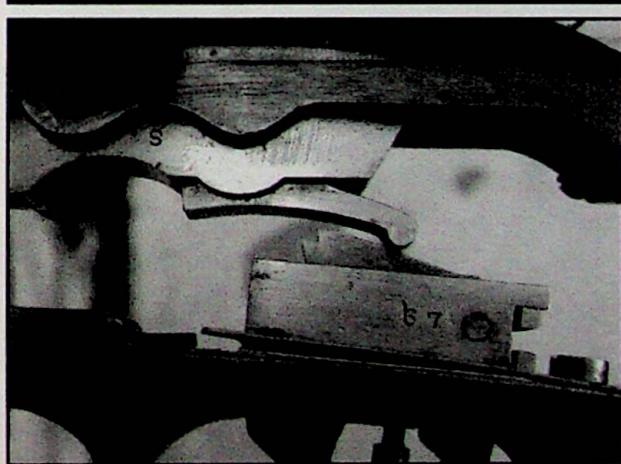
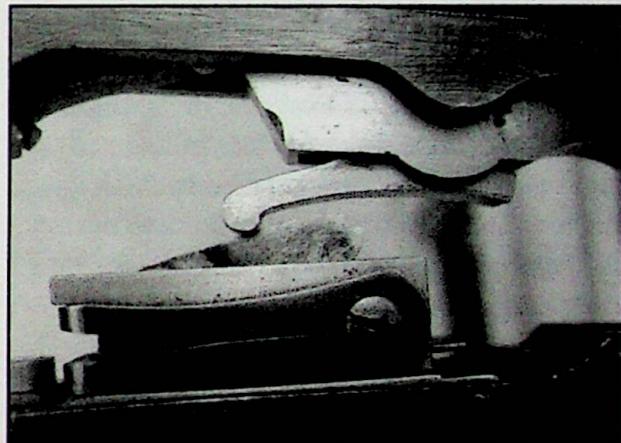
**RECEIVER/BOLT/trigger:** SN 1254449 receiver started out as a standard receiver especially selected for NM guns. The bolt likewise was a standard WL/3



manufactured bolt prepared for match and target use. The receiver and bolt were polished in accord with the Armory's special polishing program. However, in order to improve the ignition time of the bolt fall from 0.0057 to 0.0049 seconds, the cocking piece knob was cut off as was the practice adopted

in 1924 for target M1903 rifles. The firing pin and main spring assembly was not given any special upgrade. (Note: The Garand high-speed mechanism wasn't initiated until a few years later).

The trigger began as a typical double set trigger of the German pattern popular at the time. However, it is one of the numbered upgraded editions believed to have been manufactured for special order at the USMC Small Arms Armory in Philadelphia. There is also a hint that Neidner may also have had a hand in perfecting the redesign. The sear assembly is stamp-identified as No. 67 in the series and likely installed on the rifle at the Philadelphia arsenal (See photos below).



It is noted that trigger function on the rifle is extraordinarily sensitive. Those who last fired the rifle in the 1980's dared to guess the micro-ounces to set it off. This author has activated it numerous times in trial, as well.

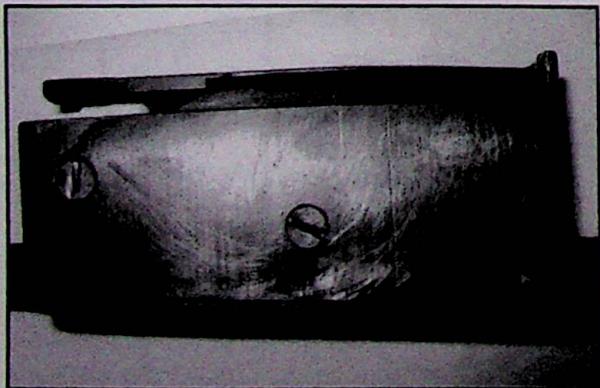
There simply is no way to better describe it other than being an exceptionally fine "hair trigger". It is also noted that later improvements to set trigger design during the 1920's weren't developed until a few years later (Rinkunas, Woody, etc.). Even so, the **X-man** never found a need to upgrade the trigger on any of his 1923 rifles. After personal experience with its operation, this writer can well appreciate why.

**SIGHTING SYSTEM:** First of all it is noted that the rifle is equipped with a standard Lyman 48C rear sight adjustable to  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute increments. All three main components contain an assembly code numbered 67. The fact that it is the same number as the set trigger components is likely a coincidence. However, it is also noted that the very top surface of the rear sight base was machine-shaved by 0.04 inches. This was presumably done to permit lowering the vertical staff a bit more for long range shooting as well as bolt operation/scope clearance. As previously noted, the front sight base was integrally machined as part of the barrel, thereby requiring a sub-mount spacer especially cut from a standard Winchester, Type 2 mount in order to accommodate the correct height for the Winchester globe/aperture front sight, which Crossman preferred. This is noted as another custom feature not used on regular

production and predating the Type "T" era HB series rifles introduced a few years later.

When not using the Lyman 48 system, Capt. Crossman preferred the telescopic sights made by J. W. Fecker of Cleveland, Ohio. Fecker advertised his scopes as factory custom made "...especially suited to your individual requirements". That suited Crossman perfectly, who often was quoted saying: "*Without question...these were the finest target telescope and mounts in existence...*". The scope use on this rifle featured a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch tube 22-1/4 inches long and 4.5 power. The scope is numbered #590, therefore of very early manufacture while Fecker was still located at his Cleveland, Ohio address. The **X-man** used this scope interchangeably with his M1924 HB, .22 Cal. rifle SN 2022 on which it is currently mounted, also of SA manufacture.

**TRIGGER GUARD ASSEMBLY:** The cartridge loading system was fabricated to function primarily as a single shot rifle. This was accomplished by adapting a standard trigger guard containing a special mounting bracket spot welded to a modified follower, then secured to the interior wall as shown on the photos below. The follower had its upper surface ground down near smooth as also shown. The cork ball palm rest assembly and sling used for 300 meter off-hand shooting are not shown. Sans these two items, the rifle weighs 14.25 pounds, including the scope.



## No. 2: U.S. Rifle Model 1903, Cal. .30, SN 1265703 to 722

### The SA Post-War Re-awakening:

After introduction of the SA's new NRA edition of the .22 Cal. Gallery Practice rifle containing the Lyman 48 rear sight, it didn't take long for an anxious DCM/NRA shooter outcry for more...much more. Quickly following up the M1922, .22 cal. Series came the NRA "Sporter", a .30 cal. quasi-big game rifle every bit as accurate as the best National Match rifles then being produced. It doesn't take much imagination or foresight to realize what was happening. Moreover, the SA suddenly found itself overwhelmed by a commitment to a new array of parts and services in support of their market expansion. With the target heavy barrels (HB) at different lengths soon to follow, the logistical issues became even more complicated, especially when enhanced with differing stock choices, barrel weights and lengths, scope sights and fire control options, etc.

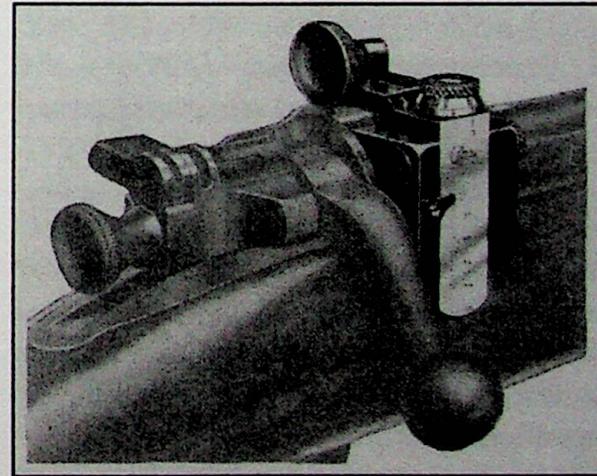
Needless to say, on the very heals of the M1903 National Match rifle becoming eligible for public consumption in 1921, the SA had unwittingly tread into territory commonly known as the commercial business market. But, it was the Lyman 48 rear sight that more than fueled the fire. For '03 aficionados the "48" had become universally considered the most optimal selection of any aperture sight available on the market at the time. Moreover, it also provided an improvement over the M1903's oft ridiculed sight radius deficiency.

Providing more services in the absence of adequate planning often creates growing pains. By the end of 1923, the SA's existing price lists provided the DCM/NRA weren't working well in the short run. With new work requests for an expanded variety of parts and services coming in, such lists

became essentially obsolete before the ink was dry. The entire process, including pricing, had to be upgraded regularly with an eye on preserving SA operations efficiency. What the SA really needed at this point was for the DCM/NRA to better anticipate future needs well in advance along with a reality check regarding the time and labor costs to be charged. This applied to the military as well.

**The Lyman 48 Hits a Wall:** One of the most troubling areas dealt with pricing of the Lyman 48 rear sight installation upon approval for installation by the SA on DCM/NRA rifles. On April 9, 1924, the Commanding Officer of the SA sent an updated Price List to the Chief of Ordnance that became effective April 3, 1924. Among many items was the following:

*"Fitting Lyman #48 sight to receiver  
(Does not include cost of sight): \$2.50"*



It didn't take long for the SA to realize this was a mistake. The price was based on the faulty assumption "...of doing the extra labor required while the receiver was in process". Since most of such requests were installation on National Match (NM) rifles, they neglected

to consider that receivers weren't always "...in process". Therefore, the alternative was "...to take a rifle from stores and assemble the sight thereto" via retrofitting. To do this, the extra labor required to meet SA standards consisted of: (1) rifle disassembly; (2) annealing the receiver for drilling; (3) drilling and tapping (D & T) the holes for the Lyman sight; (4) refinishing and case hardening the receiver; (5) readjustment of "draw"; (6) installing stock slot for the sight; (7) reassembly of the rifle; (8) pre-sighting and targeting the rifle and (9) shipping and handling.. This real increase in time and labor cost was estimated at no less than \$15.00 plus the \$4.95 cost of the sight itself if installed at the same time. This was a lot of money in 1924 and it would be months before the matter would be resolved.

The DCM/NRA was much opposed, suggesting that charging "...this price was much higher than price charged by commercial establishments". They went further in saying: "It is probable that no purchaser of a U. S magazine rifle, caliber .30 will pay this price for having this sight fitted to his rifle at the Springfield Armory...". It became a very unsettling issue. Needless to say, the Chief of Ordnance intervened.

In a memo from Major G. P. Wilhelm (Ord. Dept.) to the SA dated September 19, 1924, the \$15 price was approved, but he cautioned "...it is considered very undesirable to make this proposed charge unless it is absolutely necessary". Wilhelm closes by suggesting that in order to retain the \$2.50 basic fee, that consideration be given to making up a volume of receivers in advance drilled and tapped (D & T'd) for the Lyman sight before receiver heat treatment, then held in reserve to be used as required to fill orders.

The SA response a few days later didn't object to Major Wilhelm's suggestion. However, Ordnance was reminded that the higher cost would be unavoidable anyway in those situations where customers sent in their pre-existing rifles for Lyman 48 sight retrofitting, or in the event SA staff had no accumulation of non-heat treated receivers on hand.

The SA went on to suggest that the ultimate burden of proof should be placed on the DCM/NRA when submitting orders for National Match rifles well in advance. In other words, they should be required to specify the proportion or number to be D & T'd for the Lyman sight as part of any order. If provided that information early enough, they would only be charged the additional \$2.50 fee. Essentially, the SA was requesting DCM/NRA to become more responsible for managing their solicitation program since the SA cannot risk absorbing costs not being paid for. However, the SA response closes with further suggesting that all National Match rifles provided the DCM/NRA be automatically manufactured for the Lyman #48 at the \$2.50 cost, including two filler screws furnished for the receiver holes. That would eliminate any guesswork by all concerned.

The Ordnance Dept. fundamentally agreed, thereby having the last word regarding the alleged higher cost of SA installation of the Lyman sight. However, since the cost issue of retrofitting the Lyman sight had been put on the table, Major Wilhelm in another letter dated October 22, 1924 to the DCM/NRA requested they "...furnish this office with the names of the commercial establishments and the prices they charge for this work". But, that isn't where it ended. Wilhelm also admonished that while this office wishes to do all that is possible to

meet the demands of prospective DCM/NRA purchasers:

*"There is a limit, however, beyond which it will be impossible to meet their demands, since the primary purpose at Springfield Armory is the production of rifles in quantity; it is not the policy of the Chief of Ordnance to require very much special work, as it has been found in the past that special work will interfere with the economical operation of the Armory".*

A few days later on the 27th, the DCM/NRA responded to the Ordnance letter essentially providing no information not already known. Indeed, in the only price quote outside of Lyman Gun Sight Corporation was from the Hoffman Arms Co...and their total cost was higher than the SA when including the Lyman #48 installed! Nevertheless, the good news was the DCM/NRA went on record agreeing with the proposal that "... *all National Match rifles be drilled for screws of the Lyman #48 sight, and the holes filled as suggested*".

The exchange between the SA, the Chief of Ordnance and the DCM/NRA was to continue on into November and December before a satisfactory settlement occurred. Meanwhile, the SA also made it clear that its method of retrofitting already double heat treated receivers could never be the same as used by most commercial firms. In other words, the SA doesn't take any chances with "spot annealing" because "...*there is no data on hand at the Armory to indicate this method is not destructive...*" or induces receiver warping effecting rifle accuracy. They also advised that "...no receivers were on hand at the Springfield Armory..." (underlining added) to immediately implement such proposed policy changes at this time.

### **The 1924 Pan-American Rifle**

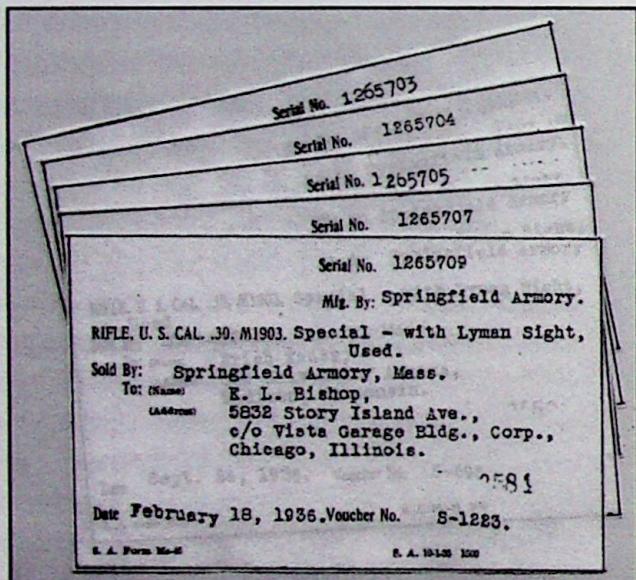
**Matches:** Before going on, it is important to note another key event having occurred that exacerbated SA's anxiety during this period. F.H. Phillips, Executive Officer - NRA had sent a letter to the Chief of Ordnance dated September 30<sup>th</sup> regarding an immediate need for 20 NM rifles, ammo and spare parts especially prepared for the American team to compete at Pan American Games in Lima, Peru the forthcoming November. The SA was subsequently notified the next day. However, Phillips' letter further stated all the equipment should be shipped to Captain John J. Kneubel, Team Captain no later than October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Marine Base in Quantico, VA. Phillips also indicated the use of existing 1923 NM rifles would be sufficient, but must be equipped with Lyman 48 rears sight. Whoops!

In response, Maj. G.P. Wilhelm (Ordnance) in a letter dated October 5<sup>th</sup>, advised Phillips that a turn-around time of less than 2 weeks would be impossible using existing 1923 NM rifles since none are available equipped with the Lyman sight. Since the NRA cited their authority being approval by the Secretary of War on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Wilhelm understandably wondered what took so long in making the request. But, then he advised the 20 rifles would have to come from current 1924 receiver production. Even so...and as previously noted, there were no pre-drilled and tapped receivers on hand at the SA for the Lyman sight.

Obviously, the receivers would have to come off the current production line prior to heat treatment. Moreover, Wilhelm also pointed out that only 15 Lyman rear sights were shipped by Lyman...leaving 5 rifles without rear sights. He closes by saying the SA would send such sights separately if

received in time from Lyman Company before the team departs for Lima.

Timeliness being critical, the SA took the first receivers available off the line...all in consecutive order, starting at SN 1265703 and ending with 1265722 as revealed on page 15 of the *"Blue Book"*. It is noted the resulting rifles were given **SPL** status by the SA as opposed to simply designating them NM rifles. The question is why? After all, this was more a War Department project than a DCM/NRA project. Indeed, the latter had only consented to mobilize resources as an *"assignment"* for supporting the project as it often did for such matches.



Examples of the 20 rifles in the 12657XX series

Clearly, the SA was not yet comfortable with what was being foisted upon them without additional needs and assurances being met. Installation of the Lyman Rear Sight was not yet settled to their satisfaction as a standard service ...let alone added to existing price lists. It is also noted that formal approval from Ordnance to manufacture NM rifles from new unheated receivers "...with two screws being furnished as fillers for the receiver holes..." wasn't given

until October 30<sup>th</sup>...which was after the scheduled delivery of the rifles. Until then, the SA regarded all such endeavor as "Special" (**SPL**) work. i.e. it was no coincidence that each of the consecutive serial numbered receivers were ultimately identified as M1903 **Special (SPL) with Lyman Sights**. It is also noted, their true identity as National Match rifles was totally ignored in the process.

In retrospect, the SA still had an unfulfilled agenda that wouldn't happen until after the Pan-American project was entirely completed. In other words, the SA wanted to be properly budgeted to make any manufacturing change that cost additional time and labor! Col. Schull in a December 11, 1924 memo advised the Chief of Ordnance that he did not want to absorb the cost of doing any further Lyman extra work out of "... *his present shop expense*". In other words, if this was now to be an added NM manufacturing standard for all DCM/NRA rifles, he wanted a separate allocation of \$200 to cover the fixtures and equipment now required to make "...holes for the Lyman Sight" (underlining added).

Meanwhile **back to the Pan-American Rifle Matches**. The reader will appreciate that the SA completed the rifles and delivered them to Quantico on schedule. The ammo used was the already proven, excellent performing Remington 180 gr. *"Palma Olympic"*. The U. S. rifles essentially met NM standards in every area except the trigger. While the match rules permitted the Lyman 48 rear aperture sight, they imposed a restriction that all triggers be standard military with a pull rating no less than 5-1/2 pounds, i.e. no special trigger lightening was permitted. Why? The South American competition had already witnessed the extraordinary U. S. success earlier in 1924 at

the IM and Olympic Matches in Europe using match quality triggers.

A three day tryout competition was then held at Quantico resulting in an eight-man squad selected as follows: Sgt. R. O. Coulter; Lt. S. R. Hinds; Ensign A. M. Morgan; Sgt. Morris Fisher; Gunny Sgt. C.A. Lloyd; Lt. R.E. Vermette ; Lt. G.A. Rehm and a Chicago civilian by the name of Steve Monahan. Capt. E. C. Crossman was named team coach, but

600 meters; the Pan-American with a team of five; shooting 40 shots standing, 40 kneeling and 40 prone at 300 meters.

In summary, the U.S. prevailed in both matches over all 4 nation entries. In the Peruvian Match, Cuba was 2<sup>nd</sup>; Peru 3<sup>rd</sup> and Argentina 4<sup>th</sup>. However, in the Pan-American Match, Peru and Argentina switched placement for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. Incidentally, the trigger function of U.S. rifles was exposed at the tryouts as being closer to a 7 pound pull. This would substantially affect the margin of U.S. superiority at the matches. Many of the team members would complain about it, including World Champion Sgt. Morris Fisher whose performance level was clearly subpar. Nevertheless, a U.S. victory was not to be denied.

For readers interested in more detail regarding the 1924 matches, Capt. Crossman's reports

also competed for the U. S. in certain events.

They set sail on the steamer Santa Luisa from New York on October 30 for Lima, Peru arriving on Nov. 11. After settling into arranged lodging, the team got down to business. There were two primary rifle matches having all the money and national ego consequences at stake. One was the **Peruvian Team Match** and the other the **Pan-American Match** for the Argentine Trophy. The first required a team of six; shooting fifteen shots each at 400, 500 and

using his classic writing style appeared in each of the *American Rifleman* issues from December 1924 through February 1925. They remain today a thorough and fascinating read.

**Epilogue:** History seems to have revealed the primary reason why the total number of "SPL" class of rifles seemed to abruptly subside after 1924. Once again, the question is why? What were the contributing factors? A close examination of events seems



to validate that Col. Schull and his SA staff finally got their act together after 4 years of chaos, thus bringing closure to one of many post-war "*Re-awakening*" challenges. As the delivery arm for the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP), Schull and company in early 1925 issued a comprehensive set of guidelines applied to all DCM/NRA sales. It was to last for the duration. The new guidelines were developed in concert with the Chief of Ordnance as agreed upon on February 6, 1925. They were published and distributed on February 25<sup>th</sup> with established limits and constraints for all manner of SA work effort, parts sales, assemblies, and cost/pricing, etc.

The new policy fixed minimum order quantities for which "*No additions, subtractions or alterations ...*" would be permitted. Moreover any "*special orders not complying with the specifications...*" would be conditional upon a quotation provided by the SA that included cost of manufacture, required assembly, targeting, packing for shipment, shipping charges, plus an 18% War Department overhead. As the process became normalized thereafter, sales transactions became identified using SA's usual typology standard, i.e. Service (S); NM; NMP; NMC; A1; etc. Yes, the days for using the **SPL** classification were now numbered...

There are undoubtedly readers who may have questions about the circumstances leading to the DCM sale of the Pan-American Match rifles. As many know, the 1930's essentially represented the beginning of the end for the M1903 "*service rifle*" as the U.S. military small arms standard. The archives are full of disposal evidence of long stored arms for DCM sale throughout the 1930's under management of the (NBPRP).

Upon a SA inspection, nearly all 20 Pan-American Rifles from 1924 were found to be eroded at the breech and would soon require new barrels. Accordingly, the DCM was advised the guns were no longer considered relevant to the Ordnance mission. So, after 12 years buried in a warehouse somewhere, the DCM announced them for sale in early February 1936 along with an assortment of 28 & 30 inch, .30 cal. International Match HB rifles; .22 Cal. M1922 Gallery Practice rifles; M1903 "Sporters"; miscellaneous bolts and parts, including some "...barrels bored and rifled by H.M Pope".

Of the 20 M1903 Pan-American Match rifles of 1924 composing the DCM sale, there were: 19 (**Special, with Lyman sight**), all classified as used, Grade A and priced at \$25 each; and 1 (**Special, without Lyman sight**) classified as used and priced at \$25. The foregoing parts and rifles were advertised in the February 1936 edition of the *American Rifleman* magazine and sold relatively quickly.

In closing, the author reiterates the opening "*Forward*"...inasmuch without the historical research commitment from SRS and its legacy over the years, the message of this article would likely not have been possible. Readers desiring to further research the story of the SA and its adoption of the Lyman 48 rear sight for the M1903 are referred to the National Archives Reference: Ordnance Record Group 156 Entry 36A; 400.191/2406; SA 400.191.215 and O-DCM-400.3294-5-Spare Parts). In addition, past SRS Issue No. 98-15 (August 2003) provides further reading regarding SA installation decisions of the Lyman 48 receiver sight.



## MODEL 1903A3 1903 REMINGTON 1942 TRANSITION RIFLE

The following rifle serial number 3352931 is a transition model rifle manufactured in 1943. The receiver is marked Model 03-A3 with the serial number on the next line with no spacing. The rear receiver ring has milled cuts but has no provision for a 1903A3 rear sight. There is no dovetail machining. The barrel is a Remington 1942 with the 1903 Model rear sight and fixed collar and base. The front sight is a Model 1903 base with dovetail and 1903 sight and blade. The metal fixtures are all Remington blued and stamped including bands, trigger guard and blued Remington bolt and fixtures. The stock is marked with all 1903A3 markings and sub assembly markings with the P on the grip of the stock. The hand guard is the 1942 type with a straight sight adjustment cut. The front receiver ring has two Rockwell harness marks under the receiver markings.

**Editors Note:** Thanks to the expertise of the Remington Society of America and their senior staff for the following data: This rifle was part of a production from March 1943 when the last of the 03's (105) were assembled. There were 58,960 'A3s made at that time. Remington used an A3 receiver along with an 03 barrel to use up remaining parts. The first A3 receivers made (1909 made in Dec 1942 vs. 41,291 03's). Remington used up the 03 barrels. This particular rifle has a rear receiver ring with the same A3 rear sight initial cuts.



**Collectors Note 158-1** Below: Military packing of commercial box with Ordnance mark.



**U.S. Martial Arms Collector 158-21**

SPRINGFIELD SPECIAL  
ORDER MODEL 1903  
SPORTING MODEL SERIAL  
NUMBER 1406902.

*Photos Courtesy of: Dave Bushing*

This Star Gauge factory sporting rifle has a Star Gauged 24 inch round barrel, with hand fitted standard military front sight. The Lyman 48 peep sight was used on all Model 1903 Springfield Sporting Type rifles. The sporter stock has a shotgun type butt plate, and pistol grip ". Block letter "P" is in a circle on wrist. The barrel is stamped "SA (Ordnance bomb) 6-32 and barrels had the star gage number on the bottom that can be seen when barreled action is removed from the stock. The usual letters are a letter such as A, B, or C and a 4 digit number. There are all milled parts with quality blued finish on all parts. The barrel retains approximately 90% blue. This was a special order Sporting Rifle that was ordered with three sets of tapped holes for a scope. Nickel steel "NS" is stamped on the bolt. The muzzle reading is a 1. These were some of the first bolt action sporting rifles made by the government in .30 caliber and were considered some of the finest bolt action sporting rifles ever manufactured by the government. This NRA Sporter is listed by serial number on the Director of Marksmanship rifle sales list. It was ordered from Springfield Arsenal with three sets of scope block holes, it is one of the few known with factory tapped spacing specifically for a Fecker tube scope. Springfield Armory altered the barrel for the three blocks that allowed the scope to be in

different positions for the shooter's preference in elevation adjustments.



*Above:* Full length of right side of Sporting Model with shotgun style butt plate. The stock has the flat butt area designed for the Springfield checkered butt plate with a rear sling swivel attached by 2 screws. Butt plate screws for all Sporting Models are special and were longer than the standard service model screws. The Sporting Model swivel and screws are the same as a service model with an excellent blued fit and finish. There is a Sporting style front stock band contoured for the barrel and stock and a superb blued fit and finish



*Above:* Left side of sporting rifle.

The Model 1903 Sporting Rifle serial number 1 406 902 was described as NRA Type with target, and barrel drilled for Fecker telescope sight blocks, and a third set of tapping for different mounting. This data was written on the Springfield Armory sales card. The sale by Springfield in Springfield, Massachusetts shows that it was sold to A. G. Stevens, 46 Manchester Street, Manchester, New Hampshire on May 13, 1933.



**Above:** Serial number 1 406 902 shows the quality of the finish and the clarity of the markings on the quality finished product produced in the 1930's at the Springfield Armory. The first of the scope block shows the drilling nearest to the receiver. The receiver was not drilled and Springfield workers did the drilling and tapping on a receiver before finishing and hardening. This rifle is a rarity with the scope block modifications to the barrel alone.

Sample serial numbers of known Model 1903 Sporting rifles in the 1930's.

1406663  
1406664  
1406665  
1406666  
1406667  
1406668  
1406669  
1406670  
1406671  
1406672  
1406673  
1406674  
1406676  
1406677  
1406678

There were many standard Sporting Models manufactured by Springfield Armory. The SRS records show serial number from 1 254 597 to 1 456 033. The dates run from

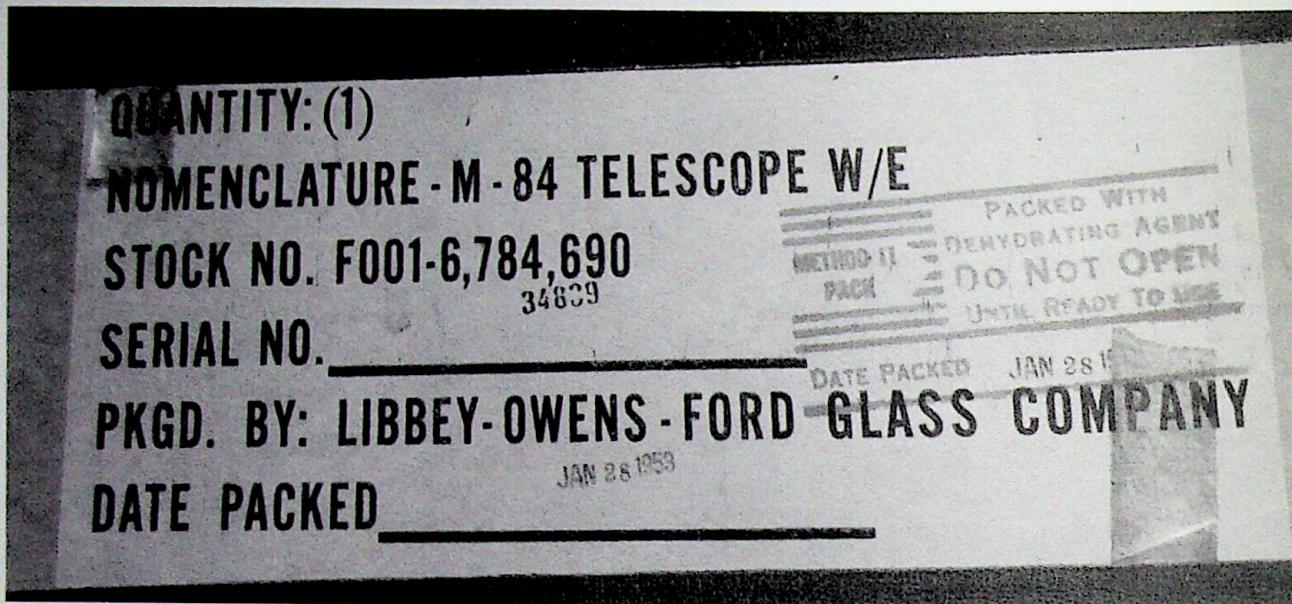
June 5, 1923 to 1934. These numbers and dates are approximate as some records have been lost and many records do not exist on special orders or weapons made for special purposes. There may have been higher serial numbers. The United States Marine Corps received about 400 from the Justice Department at the start of World War II. They were overhauled under contract from Springfield Armory. The USMC rifles that were completely overhauled had new barrels, new bolts, and all other new milled parts. All parts were made at Springfield Armory in Springfield, Massachusetts.

A custom rifle could be ordered from Springfield with checkered stock, scope mounts on the side, special butt plates or recoil pads and almost any configuration possible. In addition to direct purchase orders, it was possible for an officer and others to have a custom rifle made by workers in their off time and evenings. The cost was \$.25 per hour with the commander's approval. A top rifle would cost about \$8.00 in addition to the rifle cost.

Custom commercial dealers such as Griffin and Howe could order actions, rifles, and barrels to make their own custom rifles. There is a great similarity of the quality checkering and stock work done by the Springfield Armory and Griffin and Howe.

Collectors may face difficult decisions when examining quality rifles and the way that SRS examines "sporters" is to lay one side by side with an original. The custom work such as checkering and the standard Armory work will match.

Collectors Note 158-2



**Above:** U.S. Ordnance label for M84 scope for M1D rifle. Manufacturer is Libbey Owens Ford Glass Company, packed on January 28, 1953.

**Below:** United States Marine Corps personnel and serial numbers of Springfield 1903 Rifles issued at Pearl Harbor in April of 1931. The list includes the old number turned in and the new serial number that was issued.

IN REPLYING  
REFER TO NO.  
708-31



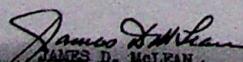
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Office of the Post Quartermaster,  
Marine Barracks, Naval Operating Base,  
Pearl Harbor, T.H.

14 April, 1931

From: Post Quartermaster.  
To: The Quartermaster, Headquarters,  
U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.  
Subject: Change of rifle numbers on Forms NMC. 782-QM.

1. The following changes in rifle numbers on Form NMC 782-QM in the case of the below named men is reported for the information of the Quartermaster, viz:

NAME	NEW RIFLE NO.	OLD RIFLE NO.
Cpl. BRAUNER, Paul R.	833365	824364
Pvt. DAVIS, Harry E.	833976	816205
" JASLOWSKI, Jack J.	333019	286422
" McCART, Rexford V.	1019544	670212
" MEAD, Frank W.	1023754	829012
" ROBERTS, Charley	361373	1032947

  
JAMES D. MCLEAN

## Burnside Civil War Carbine Serial Number 2697

### Company B 11th New York Volunteer Cavalry

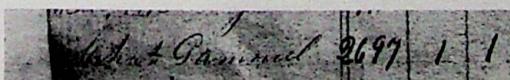


Serial Number 2697 was issued to Charles Gammel, Company B, 11th New York Volunteer Cavalry on June 22, 1865.

The Burnside carbine was designed and patented by Ambrose Burnside. The carbine fired a metallic cartridge created by Burnside. The weapon had two trigger guards with a unique breech block to use a cartridge with a percussion cap that fired through the cone-shaped brass cartridge case holding black powder. The Burnside design made a tight fit between the barrel and the breech and stopped any excess of the ignited powder gas.

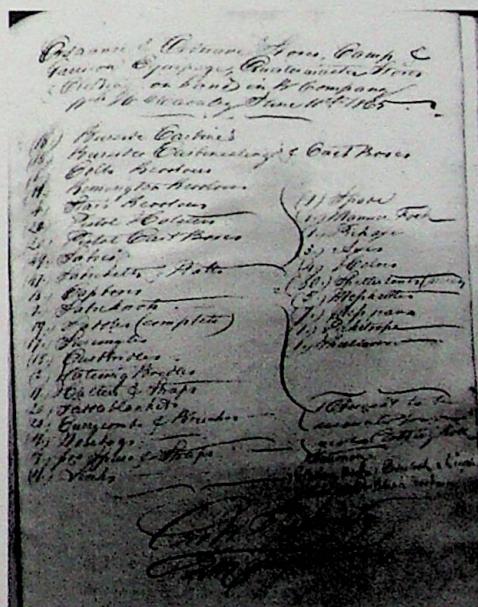
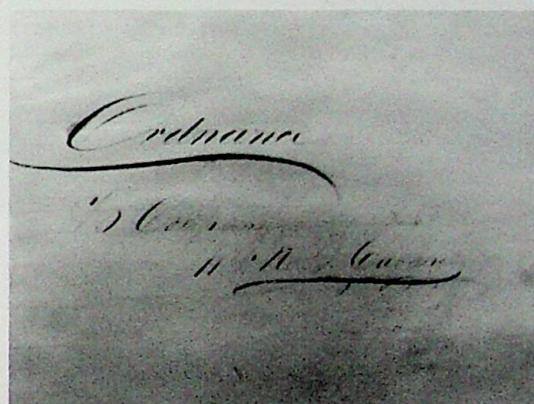
The Burnside carbine won a competition at West Point in 1857. Only several of the 17 other designs were ordered by the government until later in the Civil War. The Sharps, Spencer, Burnside were the most common carbines in the Civil War. Many were captured and used by the Confederates.

**Below:** Two records of Company B, carbine issue records of Private Charles Gammel.

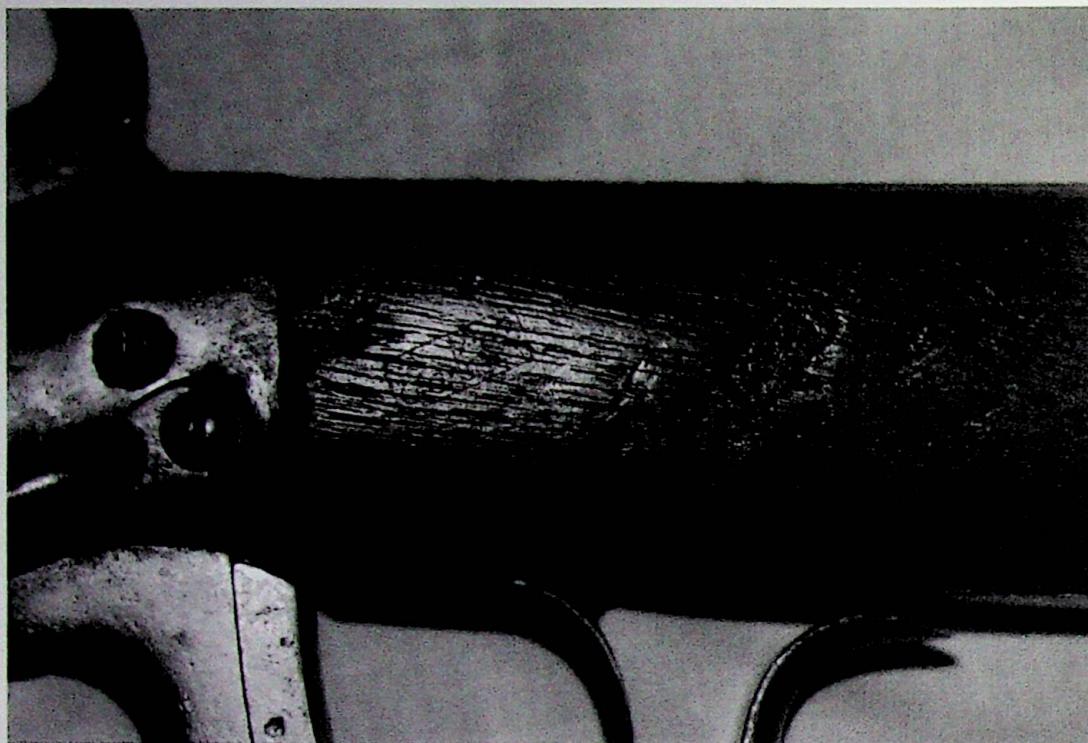


Geo. H. Strong 1 2416 1  
Charles Gammel 2697 1  
John Cunningham 2347 1

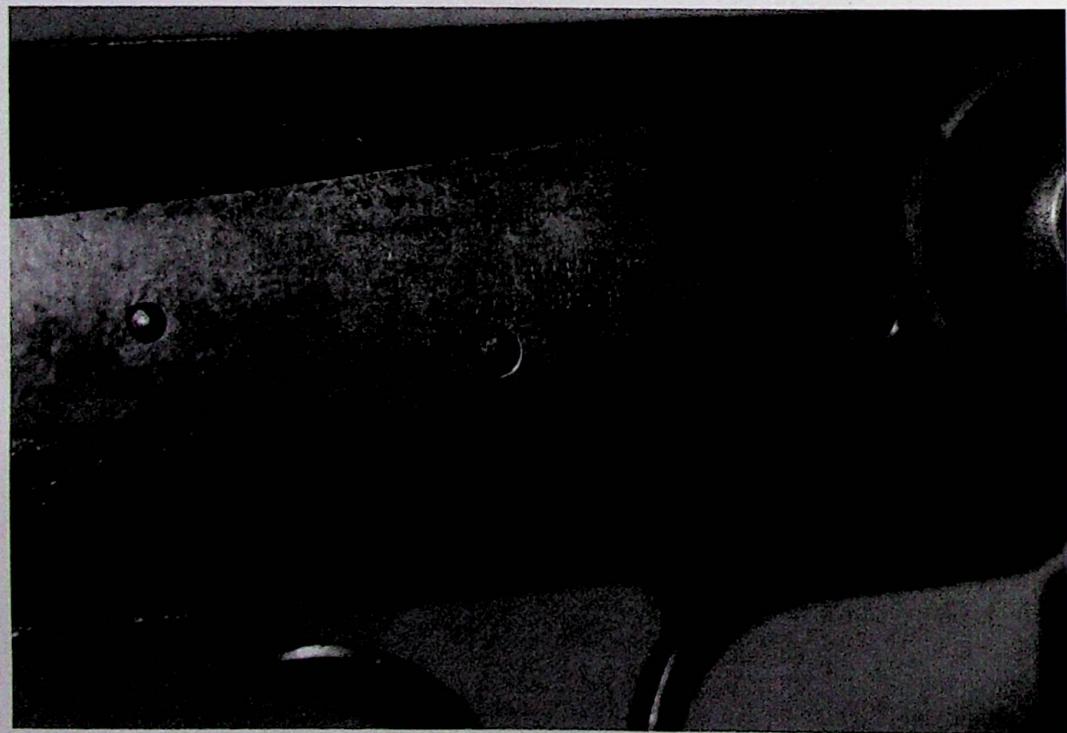
*Below:* Company B commander's signature.



**Above:** List of arms and equipment issued to cavalry men Company B.



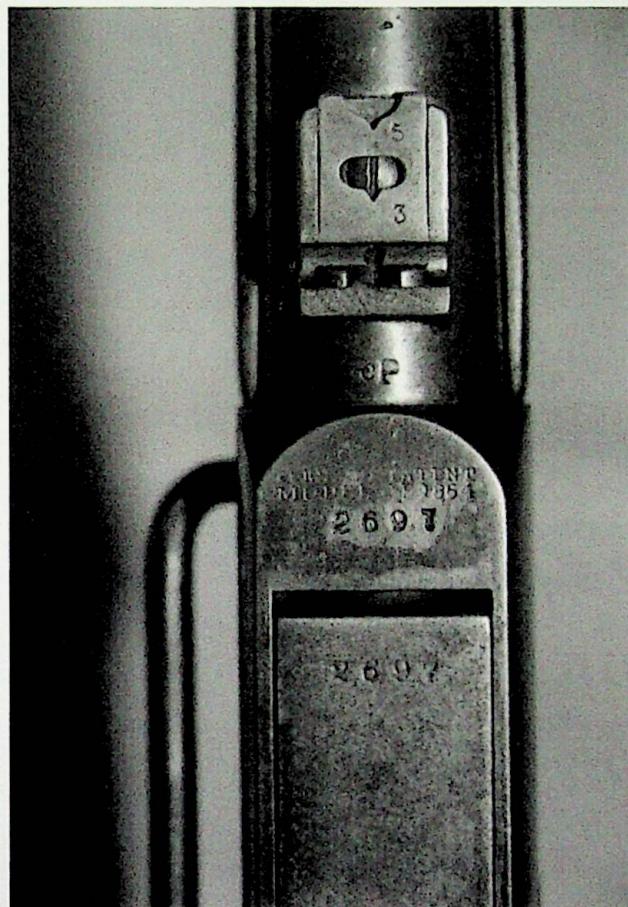
*Above:* Left side of butt stock with RHKW cartouche and a second marking.



*Above:* Right side of receiver marked Burnside Rifle Company, Providence, R.I.

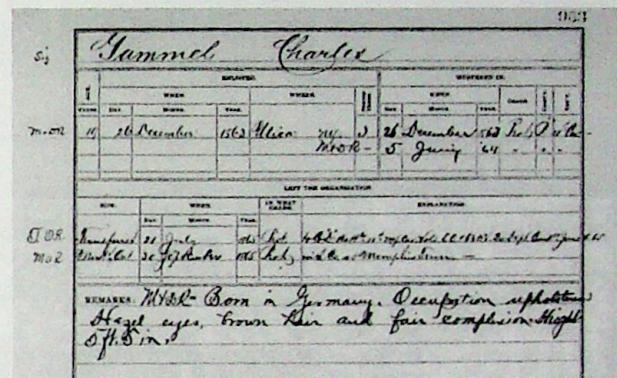
REPORT OF "THE ADJUTANT - GENERAL".

GAMMELL, CHARLES. — Age, 19 years. Enlisted, December 26, 1863, at Utica; mustered in as private, Co. B, January 5, 1864, to serve three years; transferred to Co. D, July 21, 1865; mustered out with company, September 30, 1865, at Memphis, Tennessee.



*Above:* Burnside serial number 2697, marked Burnside Patent Model of 1854.

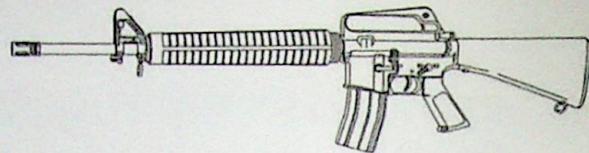
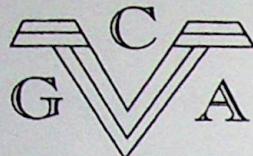
Rear sight marked with 3 and five on flip up ladder.



*Above:* Charles Gammel muster in data in New York Volunteer Cavalry.

26 December 1863, Utica, NY, Transferred 21 July 1865, born in Germany, upholsterer by trade, hazel eyes, brown hair, fair complexion.

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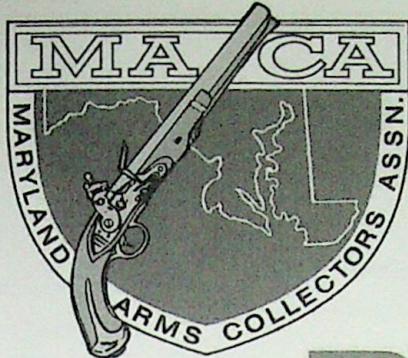
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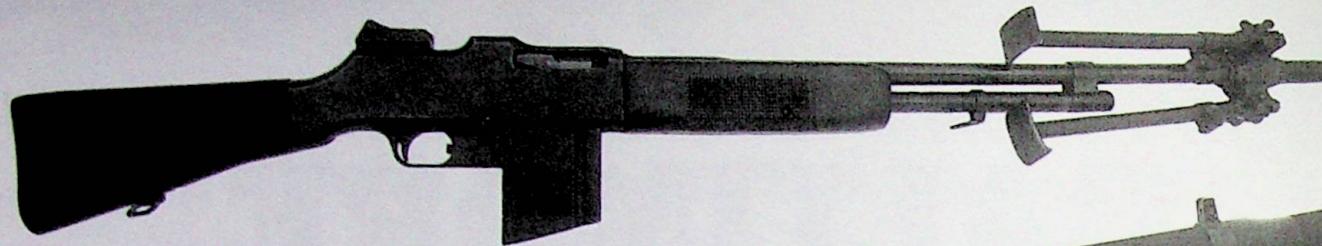
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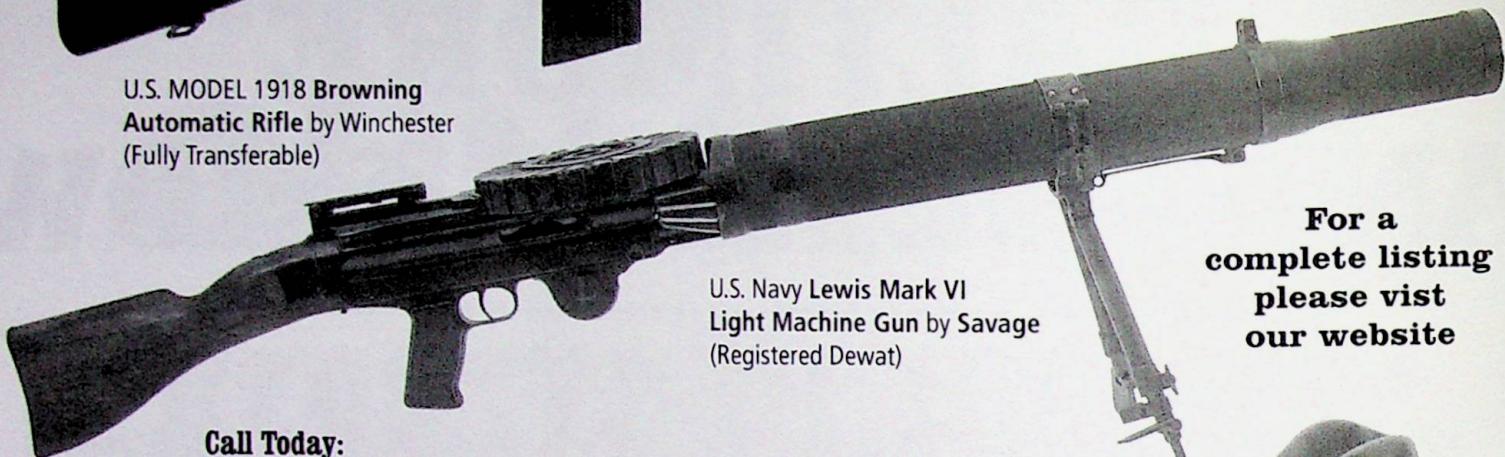
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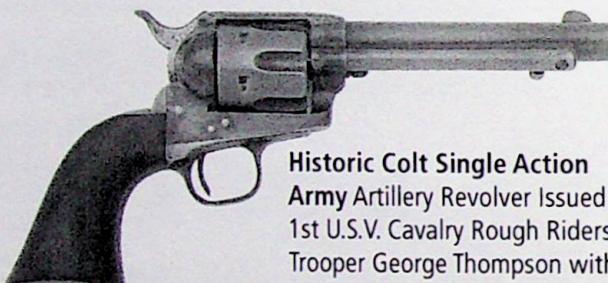
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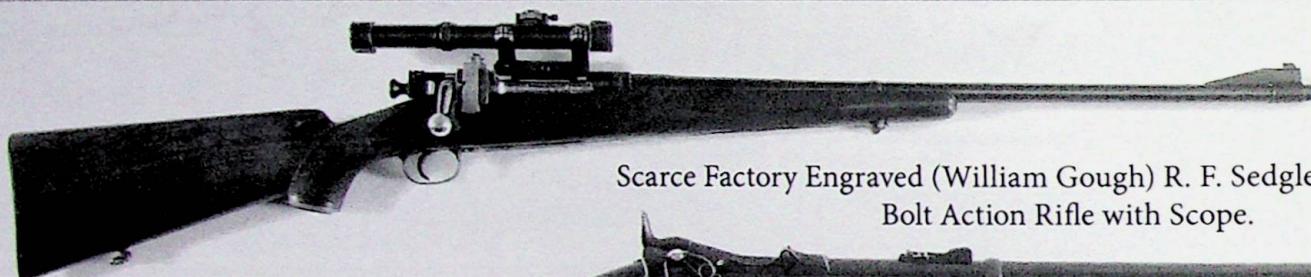
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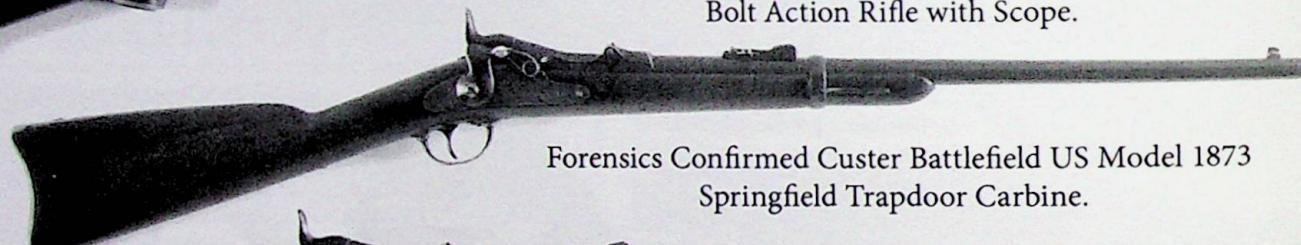
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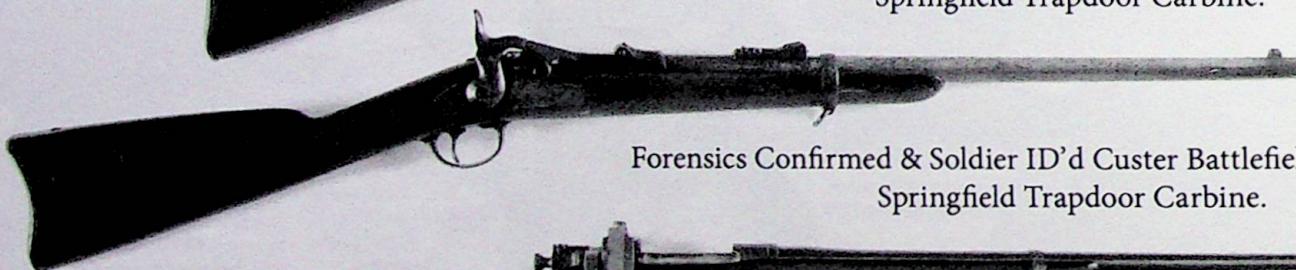
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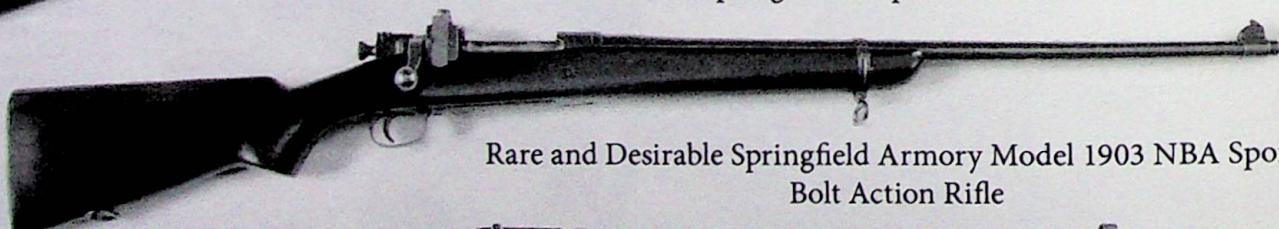
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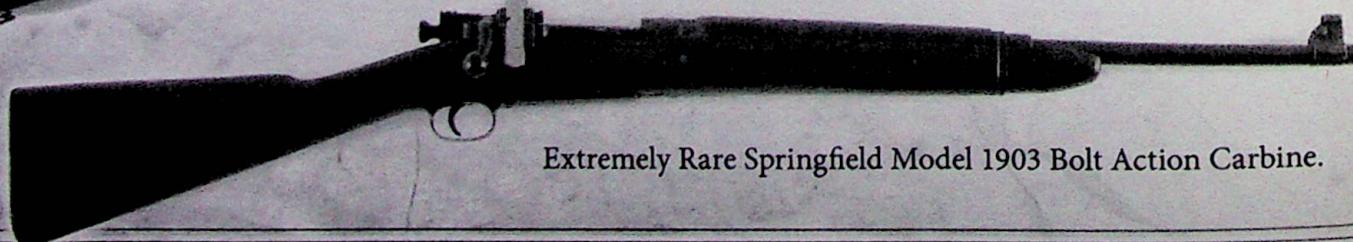
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