

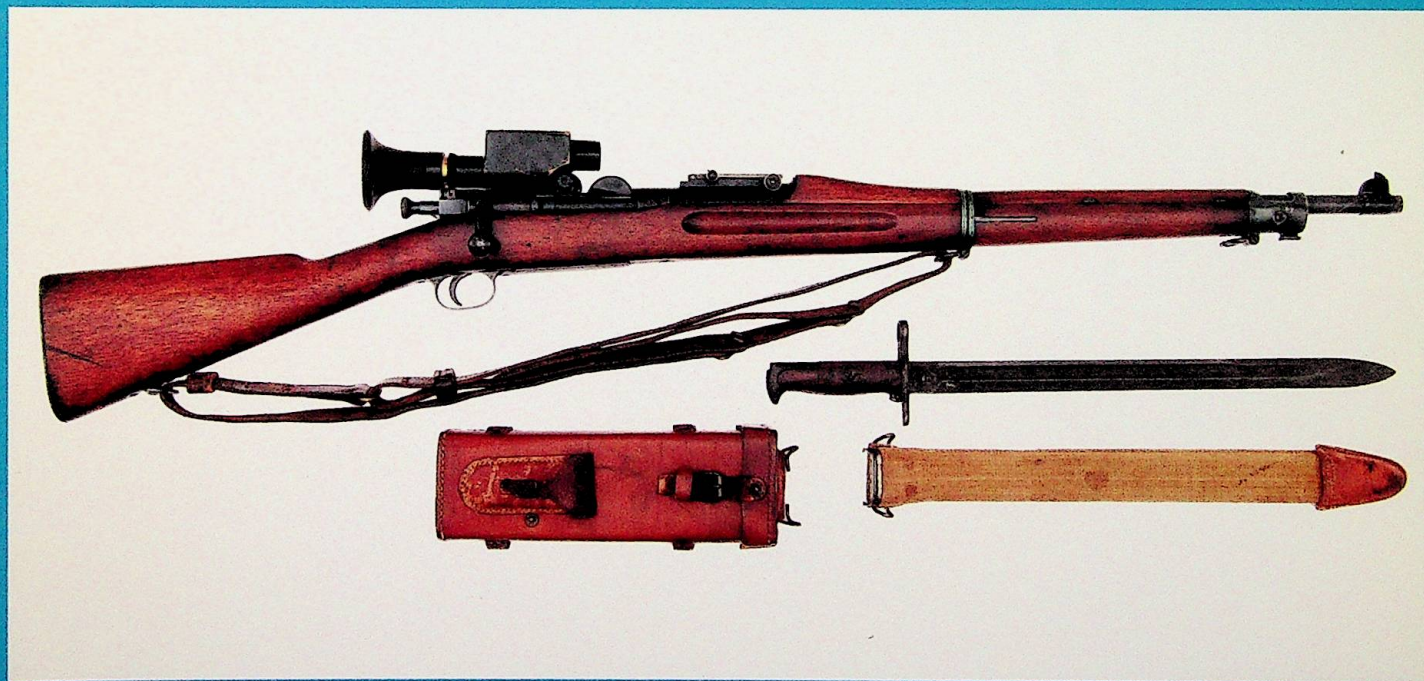
U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



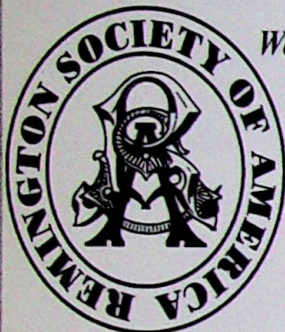
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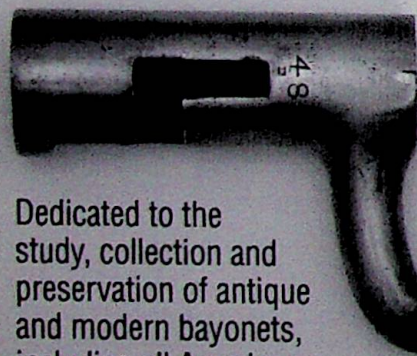
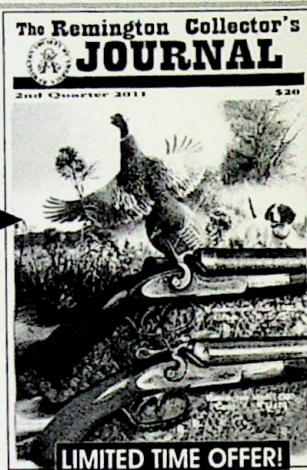
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A quarterly publication of U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine and Springfield Research Newsletter, P.O. Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818. Printed in U.S.A. Send changes of addresses and all other material to this address.

Subscription price \$35 per year, including First Class postage. **Foreign Subscriptions** \$50 per year.

E-Mail: editor@usmartialarmscollector.com
Web site: usmartialarmscollector.com

ADVERTISING: Collector cards or arms-related business cards: \$ 100 per year. Commercial advertisers, please write for rates.

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Cover: Warner Swasey Sniper Rifle

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And Springfield Research Service Newsletter

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SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE DATA BASE STATUS

SRS has been hit with an office flood with major damage to our office and records. We will be operating on a limited schedule that includes delays in serial number look-ups; basic and full research letters; and other items. We will finish on issue 161 dated December 2019.

Some data has been destroyed and we are trying to find some replacements. Unfortunately, many pages are water soaked and not easily saved. This may cause delays in using our in-house data files. Some of our critical notes have been destroyed and we are busy rebuilding and reviewing data at the U.S. Archives.

Note: Please email us if you are expecting any data or letters. We have lost all original copies of issues 159 and 160. We have a way to copy these issues for delivery. We have received requests for back issues but SRS is now out of about six old issues.

It is expected that it will take several weeks to regain our full operations. Please make sure you contact us and let us know if you are missing a deliverable. *Thanks for your emails, comments, and patience with the water problems.*

We have been able to find additional data on Model 1873 Springfield carbines. It appears that several carbines exist that belonged to survivors of the battle. We are trying to find additional data on the combat location of the troopers that survived along with their combat position at the time of the battle.

Some were in other locations outside of the main battle area.

Additional information has been found on many Model 1903 heavy barreled International and T model rifles. Some rifle data has been found with details of their condition when offered for sale by Springfield Armory.

M1 Garand data has been found with exact descriptions of Gas Trap models during their testing. Most rifles were modified, upgraded and had parts changed that are described by serial number and date groups. It appears that most or all gas traps were modified or changed by the various armories during use, test, and issue. The major block of United States Marine Corps test and initial issue rifles are now known.

It has been found that Winchester .22 caliber rifles were purchased for training. They had special rear sights to be in almost the exact position as the Garand rear sight. It appears that there were two prototypes made for a specific USMC model offered by Winchester.

Additions to our data base includes new information on Garands and Model 1903 Springfields. Many documents show that military arsenals worked on and altered Springfield Arsenal weapons to correct deficiencies and easily broken parts. SRS has serial numbers on test M1 Garands, United States Marine Corps Gastrap Garands and M1 test rifles. A great amount of our data has not been published including manufacturing dates, upgraded rifle parts and changes to various models of the M1
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Garand and 1903 Springfields. There is also data on commercial rifles and commercial parts.

USMC and Arsenal data shows that all M1 Garand Gas Traps had the firing pin changes because of breakage and non-operation. It appears that any rifle in initial issue and test issue will have a new firing pin and later Gas Traps will have the new firing pin.

We accumulated an extensive amount of information on the M1 Garand with many tests and developments. Military data shows that there were many test rifles that had parts re-machined, altered, and changed to conform to upgrades with the results of testing in near combat conditions. This effort included service alterations in the field and at arsenals other than Springfield Armory. There were many tools used in the field and at unit maintenance facilities. They were used for immediate change of parts, modifications of old parts and installation of new replacement parts.

The M1 Gastrap Garand would be very rare in its original test configuration. A restoration would be almost impossible, as the test parts were changed or ordered to be replaced with a new variation. SRS data often shows the test by serial number with status of rifle.

U. S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please send corrections or updates of addresses to us at any time. We are

receiving more post office notices that mail cannot be delivered. The latest issue and our office water problems will delay some of our work. It appears that we will be fully working in a few weeks.

We receive returned mail with no way to find a new address and postal notices may have no forwarding address. SRS uses U.S. Postal Service First Class Mailing.

The number indicating the last issue of a subscription is after a subscriber's name. We order extra copies of each issue but may not be able to have current issues for subscriptions that arrive after first mailings are made. We will try to hold some issues for late subscribers but they run out quickly. We will set up a procedure to make a copy if desired and mail it to a subscriber.

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

Payments by PAYPAL may result in a different subscription date if order is received after the current issue goes into printing and mailing. We find that a payment made after the printing is sent out uses one of our limited reserve copies. The copy needs to be mailed by hand and SRS is running out of quite a few old issues. We print extras, but it is impossible to forecast a requirement for each issue. A copy of the original issue is the only other alternative.

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CURRENT ISSUE

Issue number 161 dated December 2019 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility for December 1, 2019 mailing. 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. Note: We were able to save all of our sales documents.

We have also found more of the Model 1903 sales documents from early 1903 rifles and some Colt pistols.

There are some instances where research requires us to spend days at U.S. Government buildings. Documents have been found to be missing when SRS tries to check out a former research effort. In some cases the data is lost forever. The U.S. Archives is aware of this problem and is increasing security and identification processes. These efforts will require additional time and costs for all searches information on rare or historic weapons.

Research letters include USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 7th Cavalry, Civil War and Spanish American War documents. Other unique units require special research. More time is spent to travel to government facilities and comply with their rules for searching, copying, and the actual handling of documents.

A request for a document is done only at certain times at the Archives and written requests must include Record Groups, location, and other data that is only available on subject knowledge and specific document names and categories. We have been cross-checking many pieces of data and using U.S. Archive personnel and others to offer opinions on hard-to-read information. The Archives personnel have been very helpful in this area.

A basic letter is data recovered from our in-house files. It is limited, and there is no way for us to hold the thousands or millions of pages in the U.S. Archives. A research letter requires travel to a government facility to request, search, and retrieve specific copies needed for research. This includes checking the U.S. Government files to make sure they exist and are available for review.

The size of government data files is overwhelming. We cannot duplicate all of the pages. There are also rules on the type of copy, use of cameras, government copy machines and other restrictions. We try to copy the specifics and include them with SRS letters.

In many cases the data may have a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-4

This may require working with armed guards, checking our identification, and using special stamps for security classification or other rules.

Special documents require more time and may have higher costs.

COMMENTS AND INPUTS

Please send to:
editor@usmartialarmscollector.com.

An inquiry can be made by U.S. mail to SRS Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818. This will take an extended time.

We also print some data and ask for comments from our readers. There are a lot of very knowledgeable collectors with a wealth of information and data on sightings of rare weapons.

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

Our efforts are based on data from United States documents in U.S. Archives and other military sources. All serial numbers and information come from government documents. There are many weapon documents that come from sources that describe a weapon without a specific serial number. Many new pieces of information have been made available for us to research.

LETTERS WRITTEN

Carbine, U.S., Cal. .45, Model 1873, Serial Number 18,765, issued to 10th U.S. Cavalry, May 16, 1876. U.S. Caliber .45 Model 1873 Carbine was issued to the 10th Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Benjamin Grierson. Grierson and his "Buffalo Soldiers" arrived at Fort Concho on 17 April 1875 and established regimental headquarters at Fort Concho. Col. Grierson signed for the 10th Cavalry Springfield Model 1873 carbines for his cavalymen. The 10th was very active during the United States Indian Wars.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Service Model (S.M.), Serial Number 1 285 339. Sold to P. A. Smith, So. Williamsport, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1928.

Rifle, U.S., Spencer, Serial Number 5966. Issue to Company H, 72nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, 1864.

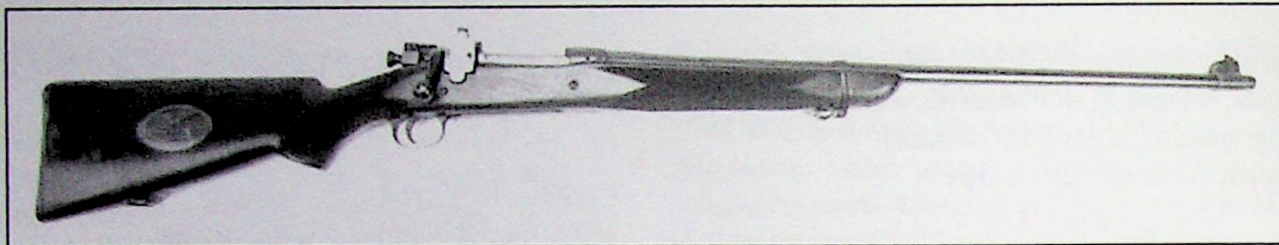
Rifle, U.S., Cal. .45, Model 1884, Serial Number 427696. Issue to Company L, 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry, 1898.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .45, Model 1884, Serial Number 469287. Issue to Company A, 10th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1898.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-5

The NRA "Sporter" in Trophy Trim

By William R. Hansen



Introduction: The annual "**President's Match**" has a long history dating back to the NRA matches originally held at the Creedmoor Range in 1878. At the time it was known as the "**American Military Rifle Championship Match**". It was patterned on Britain's 1860 program to improve military marksmanship after the Crimean War. However, it was renamed in 1884 as it is known today, but still held at Creedmoor until the range was terminated in 1891 due to continuing growth and development of Long Island, NY. Upon Sea Girt becoming the new venue site for staging the NRA National Match program, the *President's Match* was restored in 1892. Except for war-time interruptions and periods of economic upheaval, it has remained the venerable elder of the most prestigious annual marksmanship event ever since.

Down through the years, the course-of-fire for the *President's Match* has undergone many changes, but never wavered from testing a rifleman's genuine skill-set within a single event through the simulation of battlefield type variance at ranges from 200 yards to 1000 yards. There are many reasons that explain the distinctive prestige behind the "*President's Match*". Likely, the most extraordinary is the fact the event soon attracted the attention of the very person

occupying the office for which the match is named. Former NRA Life Member, President Theodore Roosevelt, became the first motivated to send a personal congratulatory letter to the victor. Needless to say, that got everyone's attention. Among the noteworthy expression in his September 25, 1904 post, he stated:

"...a soldier who cannot shoot is a soldier who counts very little in battle, and all the credit is to those who keep up the standard of marksmanship. I congratulate you, both your skill and your possession of the qualities of perseverance and determination in long practice by which alone this skill could have been brought to its high point of development".

Eventually, the National Match Program was relocated to present day Camp Perry in Ohio. Nevertheless, the *President's Match* tradition has been sustained over time, including the special communication coming from most U. S. Presidents. Indeed, receiving this tribute became an increasingly attractive incentive for those entering the match ...much or more than the trophies, medals, badges and other awards offered and earned.

However, another attraction was added to the event during its hey-day in the 1920's and 30's to which this article is dedicated. To appreciate the motive behind

it, one must also commiserate with a principal emotion driving a marksman towards entering and winning such a competition; and that is to be able to take home a tangible token in which he/she can personally and profoundly identify with. After all, you can't take home a perennial trophy preserved offsite in annual storage somewhere that only contains a name inscribed on a silver plate. More to the point, a decorative ribbon, badge or cash prize ...along with remembrance of one-time notoriety doesn't really stroke the ego very long. A skilled rifleman becomes a rifleman because he loves to shoot a rifle. If such a rifle is won as a trophy, "...there can be no greater prize". Moreover, it enables trophy room holding and viewing whenever one chooses...a loadstone equal to frosting on the cake.

The President's Match "Army Ordnance Association" Award: In this author's opinion, the period between 1920 and 1940 was not only the end of a glorious era of marksmanship before WWII, but in reality the height of fame for the "President's Match". By the mid-1920's, the Ordnance Department was also near its pinnacle of institutional growth and influence as the War Department's manufacturing arm for developing weaponry, parts and accessories for both the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP) and their NRA/DCM connection. The time was also commensurate with recent development and sales release of the M1903 NRA "Sporter".

History reveals that in the relatively recent 19th Century past (1880's) that

Ordnance rifles had become a legitimate award to the most skilled marksman on a personal basis. But, the practice had generally been superseded over the years with an offering of large, magnificently engraved trophies of pewter, brass and silver awarded perennially. But, such trophies are largely transitory and impersonal to a winner, so why not reinstate the practice of awarding a real rifle to a rifleman? To make a long story short, it was decided in 1925 by the **Army Ordnance Association (AOA)** that it would award "...an Ordnance Trophy annually to the winner of the President's Match, the trophy to consist of a rifle representative of the highest development of the art of rifle manufacture at the Springfield Armory". They didn't fail to deliver on their commitment.

NRA records show that for 8 consecutive years, such a rifle became a most treasured award to the winner of the "President's Match". One of these rifles was awarded each year from 1925 through 1932 as a trophy to become the personal property of the match winner in addition to a gold

medal, a Presidential badge, a cash award and the coveted Presidential letter. As described by Ordnance Officer, Glenn P. Wilhelm in the August 15, 1925 American Rifleman, it was decided to award a "Springfield Special" whose origin basis was the

NRA "Sporter". Wilhelm goes into great detail regarding the "specialty selected" components making up the rifle as well as attention to meeting National Match specifications in assembly, finish and performance. The metal parts were blued; the stock wood selection of "curly grain"; the bolt hand fitted and polished and a Lyman 48 installed. The rifle was then adorned with stock checkering and



Ordnance Trophy Plaque Inlay Design

Ordnance Trophy Rifles Awarded From 1925 through 1932

Item No.	Award Rifle Ser. No.	Year of Award	Match Location	No. of Event Entries	Total Shots Fired*	Rifle used in Event	Presidents Match Winner	Score
1	NRA "Sporter" SN 1266818	1925	Camp Perry	1192	40	M1903 Military Service	Bruce C. Hill, 1st Lt. U.S. Engineers	194
2	NA	1926	Sea Girt	188	40	M1903 Military Service	John M. Thomas, Gy.Sgt. Hdqrs. USMC	196
3	NRA "Sporter" SN 1273270	1927	Camp Perry	1371	40	M1903 Military Service	Oren. J. Tobey, Cpl. USMC	196
4	NA	1928	Camp Perry	1292	30	M1903 Military Service	Harvey R. King, Sgt. USMC	146
5	NA	1929	Camp Perry	1513	30	M1903 Military Service	Clarence E. Coffin, Ensign USN	147
6	NA	1930	Camp Perry	1655	30	M1903 Military Service	R. L. Speers, Sgt. 17th Infantry	146
7	NA	1931	Camp Perry	1738	30	M1903 Military Service	Reginald A. Herin, Sgt. Miss. NG	145
8	NRA "Sporter" SN 1406941	1932	USMC Base Quantico	144**	30	M1903 Military Service	William A. Easterling, Sgt. USMC	145

* **Course-of-Fire:** (1) For **40 shots fired:** 10 shots at 200 yds. standing; 10 shots at 600 yds. prone; and 20 shots at 1000 yds. prone; (2) For **30 shots fired:** 10 shots at 200 yds. standing; and 10 shots at both 600 yds. and 1000 yds. prone. No sighting shots permitted. ** Doesn't include Matches fired at all 9 Corps areas.

the right side buttstock inlayed with an oval plate to the winner engraved according to the design sketch shown by the photo on the previous page.

The first rifle awarded for the 1925 event was SN 1266818 as selected from the NRA *Sporter* inventory. Along with the rifle, the winner also received targeting evidence

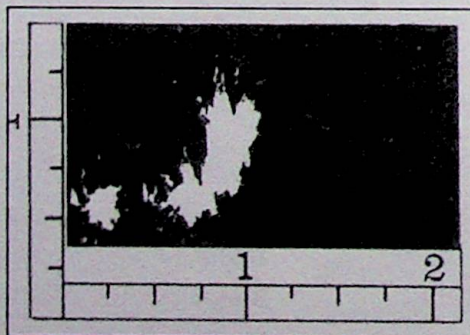
that revealed exemplary accuracy (See targeting photo hereon). This exceptional one inch group of 5 shots was the result of targeting by the Springfield Armory at 200 meters (217 yards).

While the NRA *Sporter* was known in general to be every bit as accurate as the best of any standard M1903 National Match rifles, this particular selection reflects the reported extraordinary effort by

SA armorers to achieve "*tight bedding*" of the barrel within the stock.

The course-of-fire imposed during this period for the *President's Match* is most interesting. From 1922 to 1940, it remained the same every year, as follows: 1st stage: 200 yds. standing; 2nd & 3rd stages: 600 and 1000 yds. prone. It was deliberately designed to

include "...short range, mid-range and long range stages" using both standing and prone positions to reflect variance of battlefield conditions faced in war-time. But, it remained an individual event and limited to use of an unaltered M1903 service rifle only.



It is true that many marksmen of the day chose to develop excellence of skill at a given distance based on self-evaluated

criteria related to natural ability, including eyesight acuity, reading mirage and wind conditions, maintaining a hold on the target and trigger sensitivity; etc. However, the few that could excel at any or all distances, stances and weather conditions were far fewer. In that regard, *Presidents Match* was one of those events that separated the men from the boys. The only thing that changed during this time period was the number of shots fired. For purposes of this narrative, the enclosed reference (see table on previous page) shows such changes between 1925 and 1932, the years that the *Army Ordnance Association* trophy was awarded.

Making each shot count eventually became a critically important part of intensely focused practice and preparation. The idea was founded on the precept that if the enemy can't be overcome within one's first shots, the soldier may not be alive to finish the job. So, after the 1920 year, the number of total shots systematically decreased from 60 to 50 to 30. One year later in 1921, that same total was reduced to a total of 40 shots. Forward from 1922, instead of allowing 20 shots at the 1000 yd. range, it was reduced to 10 shots...thus allowing a total of only 10 shots at each distance of 200, 600 and 1000 yds., for a total of 30 shots. It is also noted, whereas, the course of fire migrated from permitting two sighting shots from 1920 to 1922, beginning the next year NO sighting shots were allowed. Bottomline: Making each shot count with a ready-rifle, regardless of shooting conditions, became an important element in judging a competitor's overall marksmanship worthiness in the field of battle.

The Match Winner: Collectors often have a curiosity about the person who won the trophy event. Since space doesn't permit a

mini-biography for all match winners, such up close and personal insight is provided for only the initial 1925 *Ordnance Trophy* winner for SN 1266818 (as follows).

Lt. Bruce Craighill Hill was a remarkable soldier who eventually promoted to the rank of Colonel. He was born and raised in Alameda, California (San Francisco vicinity) on July 31, 1894. He attended local schools, including the Univ. Calif. - Berkley and majored in Civil Engineering. While there, he was affiliated with Sigma Nu...the *Legion of Honor Fraternity*. His parents, George and Florence Hill were able to provide a favorable upbringing for their son. He was an only child.



Col. Bruce Hill - 1925 President's Match Winner

But, his life was suddenly interrupted by WWI. He entered military service via his college ROTC program and received a commission as a 2nd. Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on June 11, 1917. Entering active duty the following September, he and his stenographer girl-friend decided to get married just before Christmas. The young officer and Augusta Meade Bissell were married on December 13, 1917 near her birthplace in Vancouver, Clarke, Washington.

Bruce eventually decided to make the Army his career as a Civil Engineer. Along the way, his superiors also discovered he was an outstanding shot with a rifle. After the War, the peace-time respite opened an opportunity to become a part of the Army Engineer's Rifle Team for a number of years. Upon return to regular duty, he served many assignments at varied locations, including France, Ohio and Texas. During his tenure, he promoted to 1st Lt. in July of 1920; Capt. in March of 1930; Major in January 1939; Lt. Col. in May 1941 and full Colonel in February 1942. Bruce was an exceptionally capable officer who could not be ignored. In due course, his intellect and skills would elevate him to the hierarchy of the Army's General Staff Corps.

Bruce and Augusta never had any offspring after the birth of a stillborn child on August 24, 1921 while on assignment in San Antonio, TX. But, the worst was yet to come.....

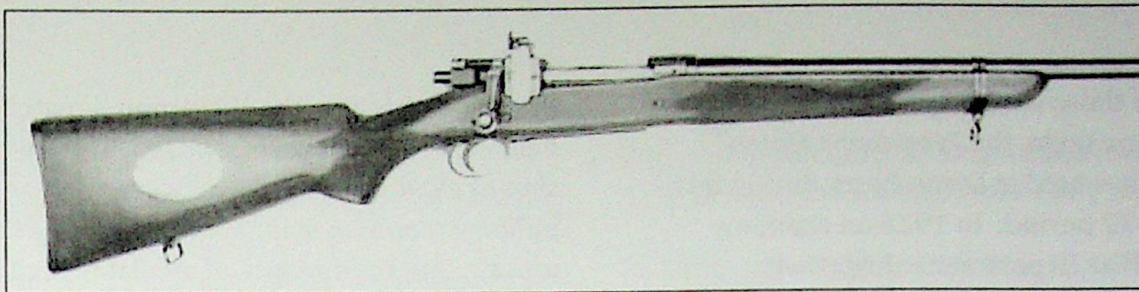
Col. Bruce Hill was Chief of Staff of the Visayan Attack force during the liberation of the Philippines in WWII. He was on board the USS Nashville (CL-43), which was serving as the flagship of the task force headed for the invasion of Mindoro Island, when it was hit by a Kamikaze at about 3:00 PM on December 13, 1944. Col. Hill was among those killed in the attack. At the age of 50 he was sent home to be buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia with honors, including the "Purple Heart". Augusta survived him to live for another 29 years, dying at age 82 on October 7, 1973. She never married again and was laid to rest next to her life-long mate at Arlington.

Epilogue: Before concluding this narrative, it is evident from the aforementioned table, that

the author is unaware of the existence of *President's Match* trophy rifle serial numbers other than the first one in 1925; the second identified by Bill Brophy awarded in 1927 and photographed in his Springfield book on page 213. It also showed up at a Julia-Morphy Auction in the fall of 2011. The last one shown was awarded in 1932 is now enshrined at the NRA National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, VA. Unless unknown serial numbers appear in some kind of public auction or transaction, the likelihood of their ever being known to present day historians is minimal. That doesn't mean they're not out there somewhere, it only means that we who readily monitor such transactions...even with the help of modern day technology, simply don't know about them.

Readers may also wonder why the AOA stopped awarding the *Ordnance Trophy* in 1932. The answer is simple ...they ran out of guns. For those who follow National Match history, you know that formal Camp Perry games were entirely suspended for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934 due to the nation's economic malaise at the time. Substituted were regional matches only in 1932. Except for a few guns assembled from parts in 1938 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), manufacture of the last 741 M1903 NRA *Sporter* series ended in 1933. So, for the remaining years 1935 to 1940, the victor of the *President's Match* had to be content with the pre-existing trophy, medal, badge and a cash award system. Nonetheless, the "...personal letter of commendation from the President" continued uninterrupted.

For added reader interest, additional photos are supplied on the next page related to the award rifles discussed herein.



1927 President's Match Rifle Trophy – SN 1273270



Sgt. O. J. Tobey holding his Trophy



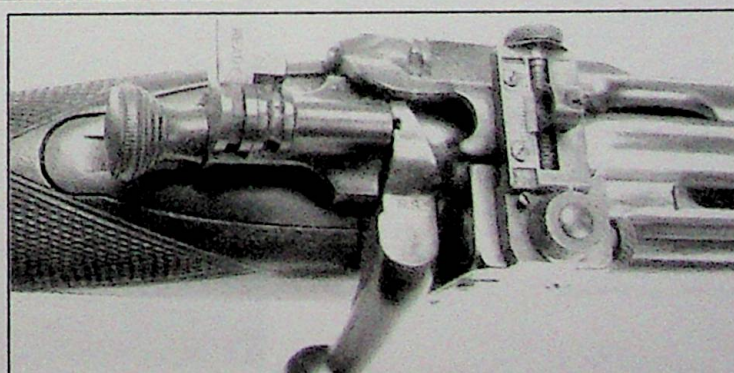
Stock Plaque Inlay Within SN 1273270



1932 President's Match Trophy Plaque Inlay



1932 President's Match Trophy Rifle – SN1406941

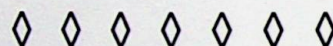


1932 President's Match Trophy Rifle – SN1406941

For those who might have noted from the foregoing table, the *President's Match* wasn't always held at Camp Perry during this 1925 to 1932 period. In 1926 an economy conscious War Department altogether "*eliminated funds for the National Matches from the budget*". So, they were held at 5 different "*divisional*" locations, including Sea Girt with assistance and support coming from the NRA, USMC and private donations. Similarly, from 1932 through 1934, a full blown economic depression had completely shut off the Federal Budget to the National Matches. It was a very difficult period for the NRA, who "*was forced into a struggle to maintain its identity*". Fortunately, the burgeoning popularity of their small bore Cal .22 program greatly contributed to keeping them solvent. The National Matches...such as

they were, became the NRA annual matches held on a regional basis. "*In 1932, they were shot at eight little Camp Perry's located on military ranges in eight of the nine Army Corps areas*". But, the collapse of available high cost Cal. 30 ammunition after 1932 led to essentially neutralizing all high-power matches.

In closing, SRS readers are always welcome to provide supplemental facts and knowledge to ongoing research efforts. For example if someone is aware of any *Army Ordnance Trophy* serial numbered guns not listed herein, please respond to SRS editor Wayne Gagner with your information and/or comments.



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- Various Online Websites

**COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY
SERIAL NUMBER 16787**

The Colt Single Action Army revolver was manufactured from 1873 to 1891. They were used by the military through World War 1. They were repaired, altered, and overhauled by U.S. arsenals, and the Colt company over the entire life of their use. The first models inspected by Orville Wood Ainsworth (OWA) and the Henry Nettleton had 7 and 1/2 inch barrels for the cavalry. There were ordnance sub-inspector at Colt from October 1873 to November 1874 who marked parts.

The Single Action Army's early production was inspected by and were used by Col. G. A. Custer's 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Serial numbers vary but Little Bighorn Colts could be from 4500-7500.

The revolvers were also used by American Indian scouts. A great deal of the long barrel cavalry models were overhauled and converted to five and three quarter inch barrels and other modifications.

Original Colts have a cartouche (OWA or HN) on the left side of the wood grip.

David F. Clark (D.F.C.) cartouche were used on many revolvers from 1880 to 1887.

In 1893, the .45 U.S. Colt Single Action Army revolver was retired but was still standard for Infantry, Artillery and other branches of the U.S. Army.

Two thousand SAA revolvers were sent to Colt to be overhauled with barrel length of 5 1/2 inches. In 1898, 14,900 of the SAA revolvers were altered the same way by Springfield Armory. The Artillery Model usually had mixed numbers. It can be identified by the U.S. on the frame, the inspector's stamps on different parts (such as a tiny A for Orville W. Ainsworth, DFC, HN, RAC for later inspectors and K for replacement parts) and the cartouche of Rinaldo A. Carr (RAC), the inspector who inspected the refurbished guns, on the grip.

The SAA revolver was used from 1873 to 1892 and longer and used during American Indian Wars, Spanish American War, Philippine and Mexican wars.

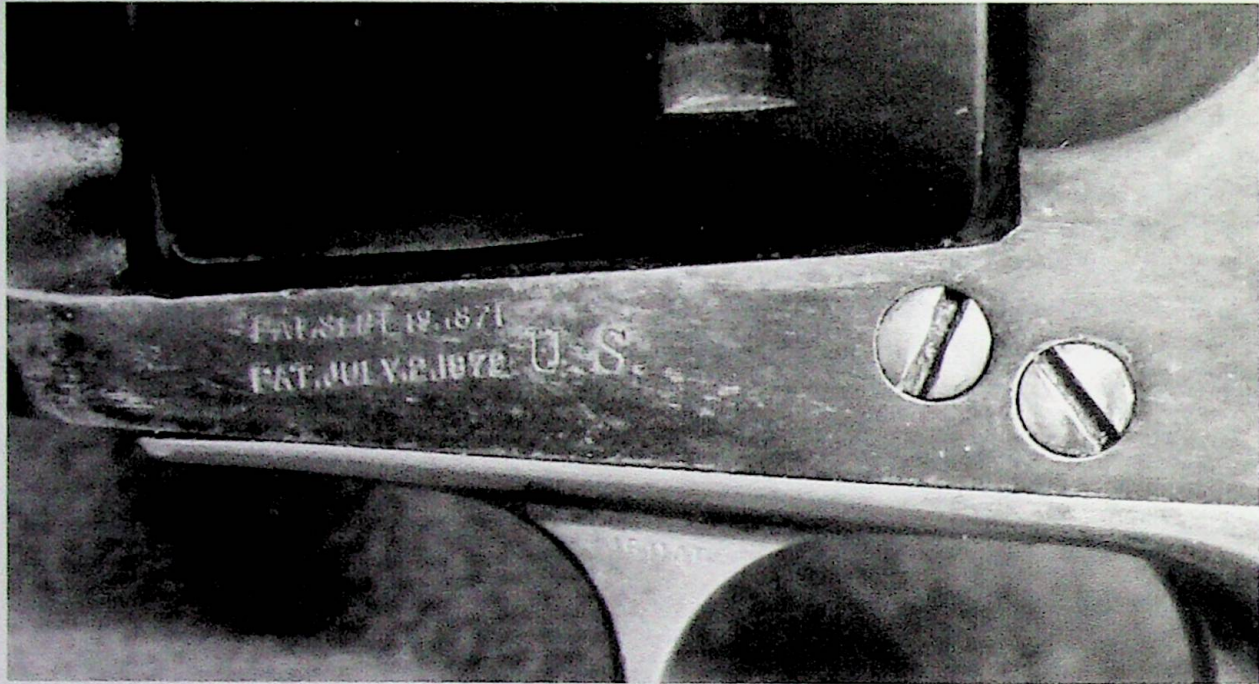
Below: Serial number 16787 full left side with 7 1/2 inch barrel.

Photos: Courtesy of Mike Sipes.

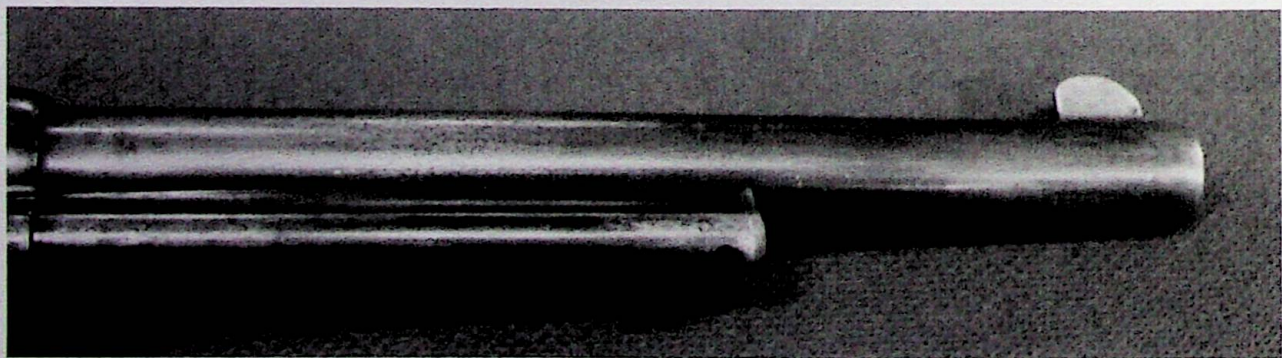


U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-13

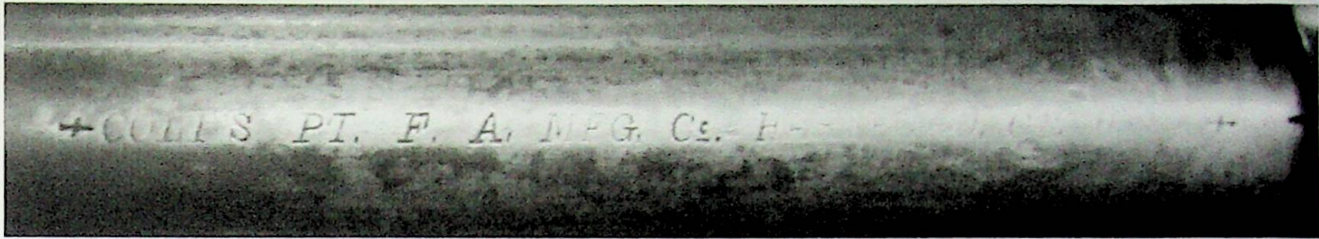
The Colt SAA Cavalry is shown with original 7 and 1/2 inch barrel and mixed numbers on trigger guard and butt assembly. This unusual early Colt and has all original major parts and has survived with an upgraded hammer and cylinder.



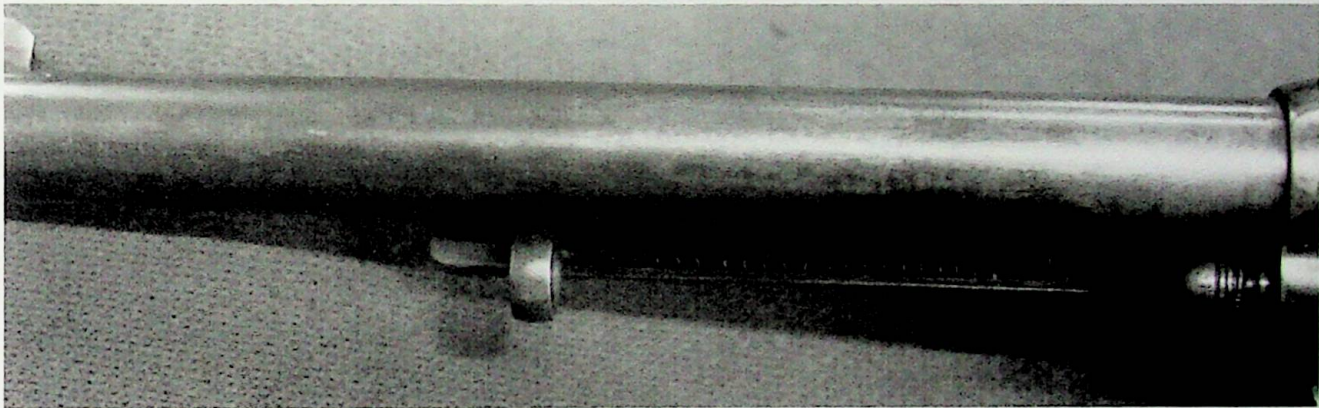
Above: Left side of SAA frame with patent dates 1871 and 1872 and U.S. Trigger guard marking.



Above: Full length original barrel with correct markings and ejector housing.



Above: Barrel markings Colts PT. F. A. MFG, Co. Hartford CT. U. S. A.

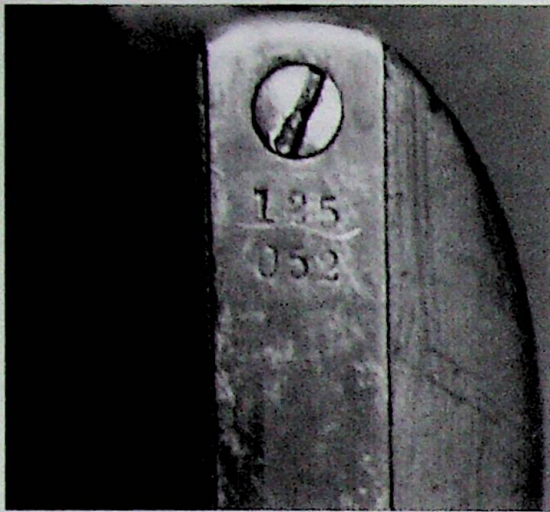


Above: Barrel with ejector housing, round head ejector rod and early cylinder pin and rod holding screw.

Editors Note: During the 2nd quarter of 1877 the Department of Dakota noted that serial numbers 12043, 213413, 21567, 21023, 22268, 16680, 5743, 6559, 18383, 48967, and 26722 were received and required major work to make them serviceable. This is a good example of the Single Action Army revolvers that were issued to western units that had hard use by U.S. Army units. The data also indicates that Army units were confronted with weapons that were desired and used and were repaired, altered, upgraded or changed to meet field needs.

SRS has other data that showed that budget constraints were severe and local units carried out repairs that would have required special funds to send pistols back to Springfield or other locations for repair.

The revolver shown in this article could have been one that needed field repair for continual use by a cavalry man or American Indian scout.

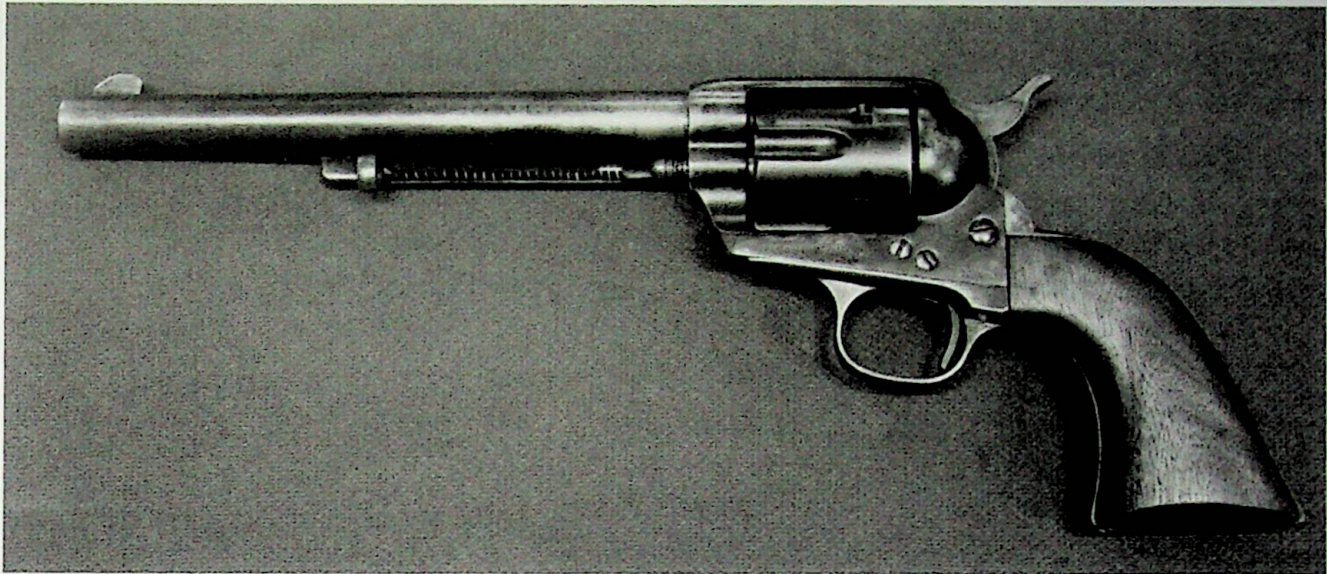


Left: Butt strap with number 125052



Above: Trigger guard with number 135052 and frame with serial number 16787

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-16



Above: Single action Army with original wood grip assembly with faint cartouche and correct markings inside.

The following SAA serial numbers were documented to revolvers in the 16000 number range.

16346 October 17, 1900 to 2nd Artillery (inspected by Springfield Armory

16459 October 17, 1900 to 2nd Artillery (inspected by Springfield Armory

16489 July 26, 1899 to Company E, 32nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry

16822 July 29, 1900 to Troop H 11th U.S. U.S. Volunteer Infantry

16849 May16, 1908 to Camp Keithley, PI

16850 January 26, 1891 Troop C 7th Cavalry (in train wreck)

16928 August 17, 1886 to Troop C 5th Cavalry

There were many instances where SAA revolvers were documented for units. Springfield Research Service has found various document on upgrades but the research requires extensive work for each revolver.

We are searching our records to see if this revolver could have been issued to an Indian scout or other special unit. There were many upgrades that took place during the SAA use.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-17

7th Cavalry Documents from August 1873 Outlining Battles with Sioux American Indians

(The following documents are a best effort transcription of the original hand written correspondence found in the United States Archives, Washington, D.C.) Copies of the originals follow this text.

Headquarters Yellowstone Expedition
Camp No. 47 Muscle Shell River MT
5 miles Below the Mouth of Swimming Woman's Creek August 19th 1873
Via Fort Benton Montana

To Major O. D. Griene
A.A. General Saint Paul Minnesota

I report my arrival with command this PM, at this place- Reynolds and Morris scouts start for Fort Benton tonight. We arrived at Pompeys Pillar on the 15th- found the wagon road from Tongue River to on the Yellowstone very difficult from Tongue River to Pompeys Pillar- The valley of the Yellowstone is very fine, heavy Cottonwoods fine abundant, and good grazing. General Custer with the cavalry has had two fights with the Indians- the first on the fourth- record on the eleventh of August- General Custer report is mailed at Fort Benton on the fourth of August- I sent Custer ahead to look for roads and camp. The Indians tried to draw him to ambush but failing, rushed from their concealment and attacked. Custer had ninety men, the Indians had (several) hundred- Custer first fought on the defensive but finding the Indians failing he moved his men and charged them, scattering them in all directions- whilst this affair was going on a party of seven Indians intercepted Veterinarian Surgeon Honsinger . Seventh Cavalry and the Ballerains a trader between the main column and the river and murdered them both- These persons were unarmed - The Indians also waylaid and killed one soldier Private Ball " Co F Seventh Cavalry, who was hunting. On the seventh of August we found that the Indians had lodges. On the eighth we found that a very large camp had broken up. Thrown away many their valuables and fled- Genl Custer of and fled- Genl Custer Cavalry and all the scouts were sent in pursuit early in the night of the eighth (8) . The night of the ninth Custer found that the Indians had rafted across the yellow stone- General Custer tried in ineffectually to cross all day the tenth of August and was interrupted at daybreak on the 11th by an attack coming first from the opposite side of the Yellowstone and presently from the Shanks Bluffs in his rear- The attacking force was over five hundred Indians- Custer met them with a skirmish line on foot until he prepared his squadrons, when he charged and ran the Indians for as far as nine or ten miles- the loss of the Indians in their live affair was considerable in lives of themselves and ponies killed. I can only state their loss from reports made by different officers which would place the total of forty killed and wounded-

They are not badly enough hurt to be humbled - The Sioux were present from the Agencies dressed in clothing given in amenities .

They threw away Winchester Rifles and ammunition in their flight showing that they were lately equipped by the traders in the mission who show shipped arms and ammunition as hardware. Second Lieutenant Charles Bradew Seventh Cavalry is badly wounded - thigh broken by a bullet- he is doing well- In the two engagements we had four(4) men killed and four (4) wounded, Five (5) horses killed and four (4) wounded- General Custer and Adjutant General Ketchum 22nd Infantry had horses shot under them -The troops behaved very handsomely -I will move to the Big Bend of the Muscle Shell and thence to the head of Great Porcupine- In case I return either by the head of the Big Dry Fork or by the Great Porcupine and Yellowstone. I will be opposite our stockade within three days or before or after the twelfth of September- Please to have a Steamboat and a paymaster there. Fort Abraham Lincoln is nearer for us than Rice.- Can we be dismissed at A Lincoln-We shall be five (5) days without forage before we reach the stockade- Please send all mail at Rice Lincoln and Buford by Josephine-

Signed D S Stanley Colonel 22nd Infantry, Commanding Expedition

Headquarters Department of Dakota August 27, 1873

Note: The following three pages are copies of the original documents that were transcribed from originals on pages 161-18 and 161- 19. They show the signatures of the U.S. Army units from 1873. The battles were prior to the "Last Stand".

SRS is reviewing many of the older documents and have found quite a few pages of other Custer activities. We hope to try to cross reference the notes with other weapon related information.

Serial numbers are still a challenge and early Congressional inquiries state that the records of serial numbers for the Seventh Cavalry have been destroyed. We have found some additional data in files that are totally unrelated.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-19

Headquarters Yellowstone Expedition
Camp No 47 Muscle Shell River, Mt.
5 miles below the Mouth of Swimming
Woman Creek. August 19th 1873 -
via Fort Benton. Montana -

3.

Major O.D. Greene
A.A. Genl. St Paul. Minn. -

I report my arrival with command
this P.M. at this place - Reynolds and Morris
Scouts start for Fort Benton to night - We
arrived at Pompeys Pillar on the fifteenth inst -
found the wagon road on the Yellowstone very
difficult from Tongue River to Pompeys Pillar - The valley
of the Yellowstone is very fine, heavy cotton wood fine
abundant, and good grazing - General Custer with
the Cavalry has had two fights with the Indians -
the first on the fourth - second on the eleventh of
August - General Custers report is mailed at Fort
Benton on the fourth of August - I sent Custer ahead
to look up roads and camp - The Indians tried to draw
him to ambush but failing, rushed from their conceal-
ment and attacked - Custer had ninety men, the
Indians three hundred - Custer first fought on the
defensive, but finding the Indians shaky, he moved
his men and charged them, scattering them in all
directions - Whilst this affair was going on a party
of seven Indians intercepted Veterinary Surgeon Henshaw.

gov. Seventh Cavalry and Mr Ballerain a trader between the main column and the river and murdered them both - These persons were unarmed -

The Indians also waylaid and killed one soldier Private Ball, "Co. F," Seventh Cavalry, who was hunting for the sevenths of August we found that the Indians had lodges. On the eighth we found that a very large camp had broken up, thrown away many of their valuables and fled - Genl. Custers Cavalry and all the scouts were sent in pursuit early the night of the eighth (8/). The night of the ninth Custer found that the Indians had rafted across the Yellowstone - Genl. Custer tried ineffectually to cross all day the tenth of August and was interrupted at daybreak on the eleventh by an attack coming first from the opposite side of the Yellowstone and presently from the Snake Bluffs in his rear - The attacking force was over five hundred Indians - Custer met them with a skirmish line on foot until he prepared his squadrons, when he charged and ran the Indians for as far as nine or ten miles - The loss of the Indians in this last affair was considerable in lives of themselves and ponies killed - I can only state their loss from reports made by different officers which would place the total at forty killed and wounded - They are not badly enough hurt to be humbled - The Sioux were present from the Agencies dressed in clothing given in annuities - They threw away Winchester Rifles and ammunition in their flight showing that they were lately equipped

by the Traders in the Missouri who now ship arms
and ammunition as hardware. 2^d Lieut Charles
Bradley Seventh Cavalry is badly wounded - thigh broken by
a bullet - he is doing well - In the two engagements we
had four (4) men killed and four (4) wounded five (5)
horses killed and four (4) wounded - Genl. Custer and
Adjutant Ketchum 22nd Infy had horses shot under
them - The Troops behaved very handsomely - I will
move to the Big Bend of the Mussle Shell and thence
to the head of Great Porcupine - In case I return either
by the head of Big Dry Fork or by the Great Porcupine
and Yellowstone I will be opposite our stockade within
three days before or after the 1st of September -

Please to have a Steamboat and a Paymaster
there. Fort Abraham Lincoln is nearer for us than
Rice - Can we be dismissed at A. Lincoln - We
shall be five (5) days without forage before we reach
the stockade - Please send all Mail at Rice, Lincoln
and Buford by Josephine -

Signed. W. S. Stanley

Col. 22nd Infy

Commanding Expedition

Adj. Genl. Dept. of Dakota

St. Paul, Minn. Aug. 27, 1873.

Official copy respectfully forwarded to Adj. Genl. at St. Paul, Minn.
for the information of the General.

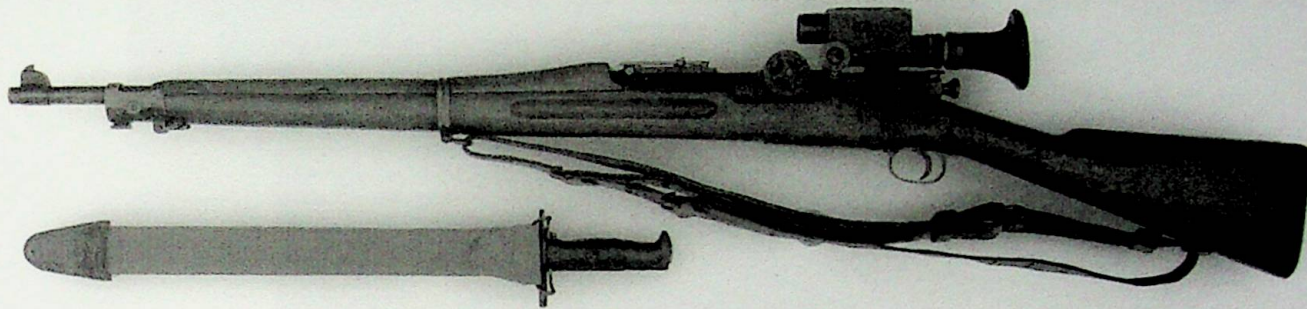
Sgt. Alfred I. Davis

Adj. Genl. Dept. of Dakota

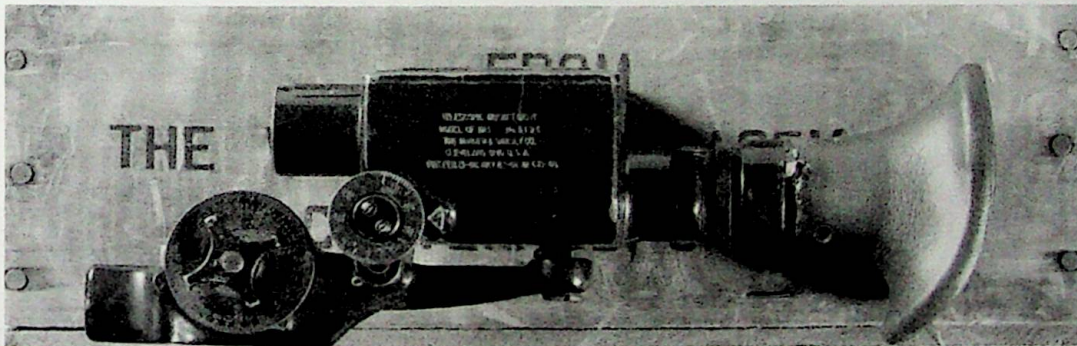
I have just been told that
 the 22nd Infy is to be
 sent to the head of
 the Mussle Shell
 and thence to the
 head of Great
 Porcupine - I will
 be opposite our
 stockade within
 three days before
 or after the 1st of
 September -

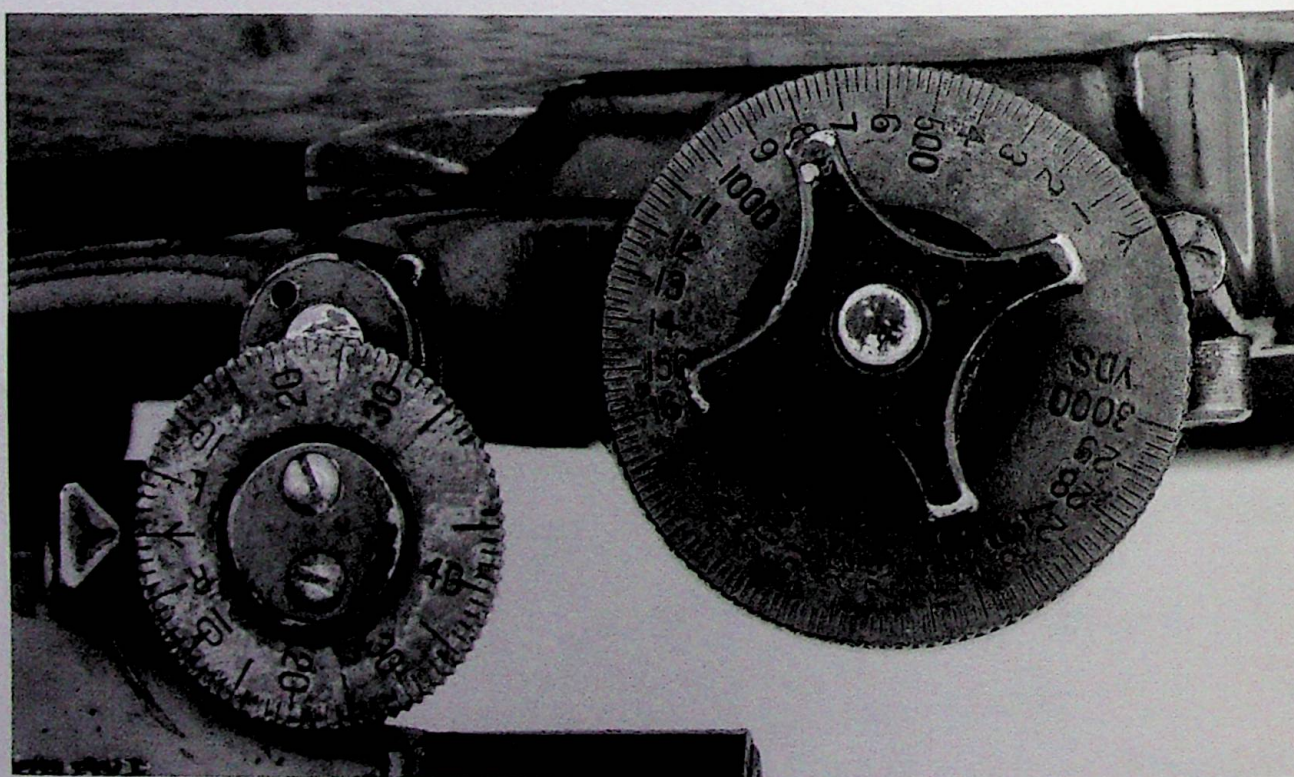
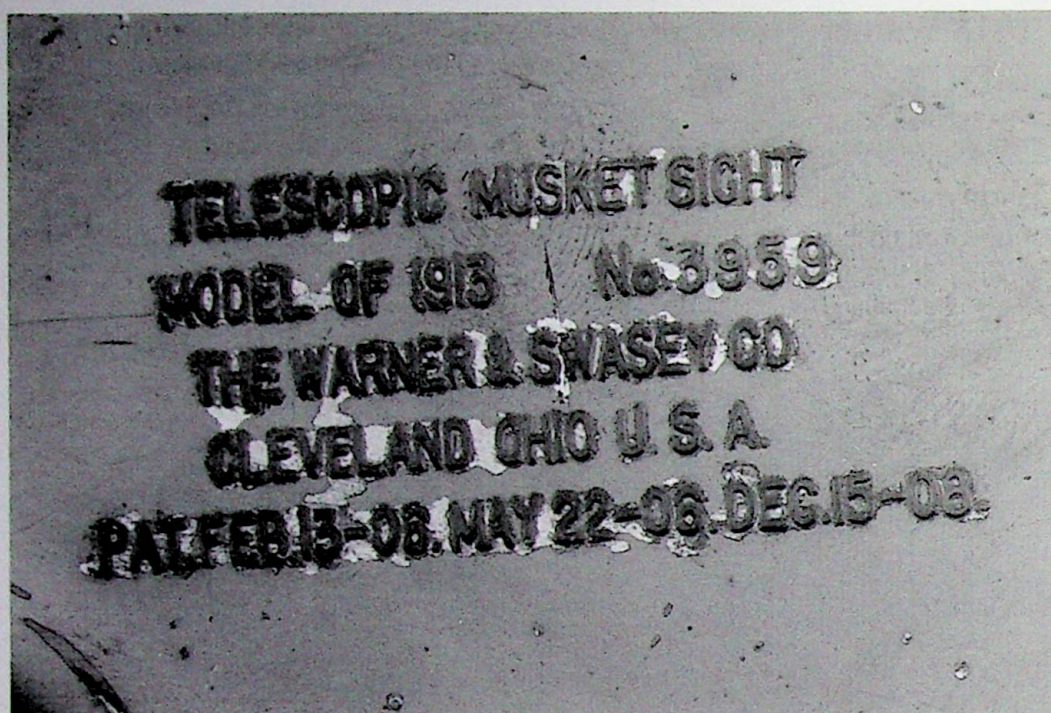
The early Warner and Swasey 1908 optic had 6 power magnification and later the 1913 version had a 5.2x power with larger

field of view and better light gathering. The scope was made of steel and brass and painted black. The following photos and data detail the use and manufacture of the Model 1903 Springfield Sniper for World War 1.

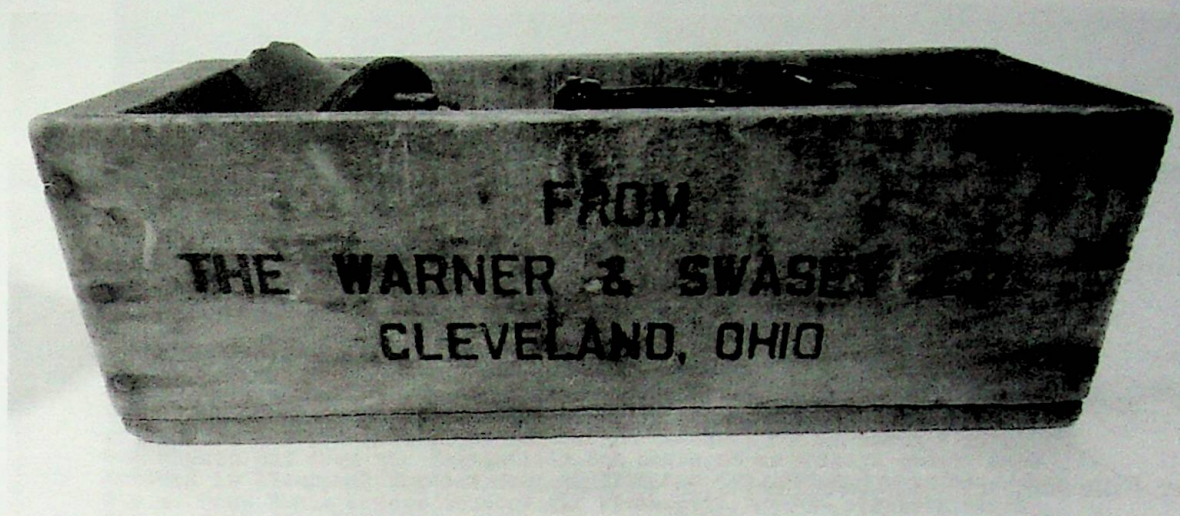


Below: Mounting bracket with 1903 Serial number and complete scope assembly.





Above: Model 1913 scope data plate and adjustments or elevation and windage.

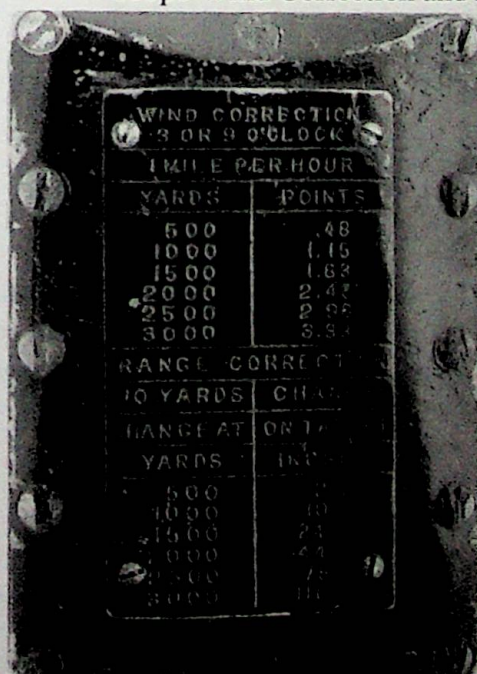


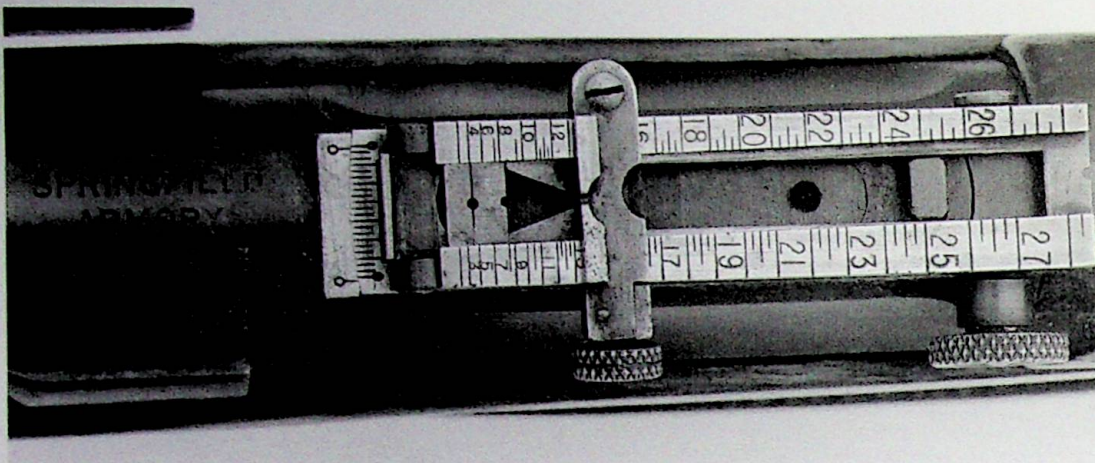
Above: Warner Swasey, Cleveland, Ohio Shipping Crate.

Below: JFC Cartouche on stock.



Below: Scope Wind Correction and Range Scope Plate.





Above: Rifle number 690354 issued to Private R. Wallace



Left: Headquarters 180th Infantry Brigade, Camp Travis, Texas May 29, 1918. School for Scouts and Snipers.

Photos and documents courtesy of:
Martin Callahan.

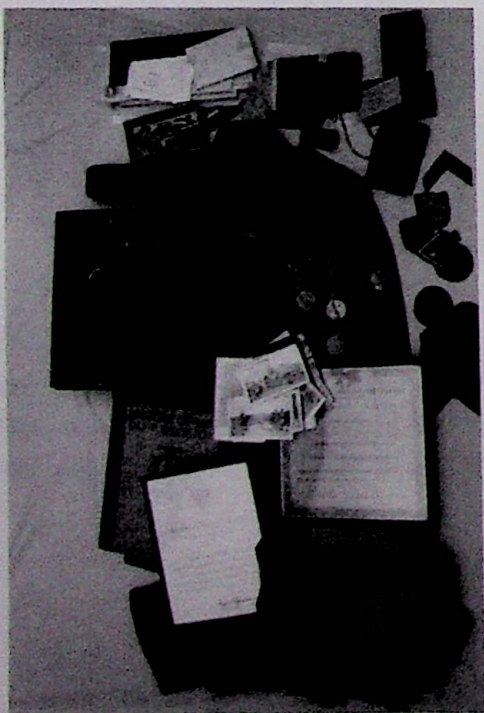
The following page is a copy of Private Wallace's diary from travel in the United States, Halifax, and shipping to England. He continued from England to Viller-St. Roze, France with several stops towards Blercourt, France. Wallace was stationed in several French town and saw combat in various positions and was stationed in Marville, France November 1918.

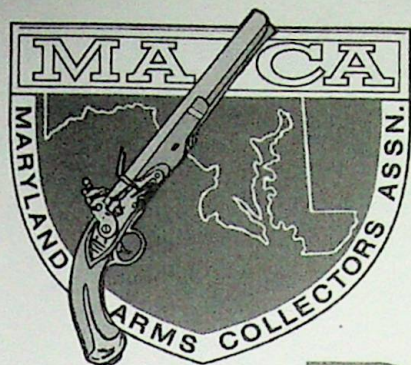
WAR DIARY

Left Camp Travis, Texas, June 5th, 1918 about 4:30 P.M. Passed through Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Arrived in New York on June 9th, and crossed New York Harbor in the ferry-boat, Catskill, seeing the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World at the entrance to New York Harbor. Went into camp at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, same date. Secured some equipment ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~rested here~~ ^{rested here}. Left Camp Mills on June 13th, via train for Philadelphia. Arrived in Philadelphia same day, and took passage on ship, City of Glasgow, sailing about 4 p.m. Sailed up American coast to Halifax, Nova Scotia, arriving there June 18th, 1918, about noon. Spent night and part of next day on ship there, leaving about 2 p.m. June 17th, 1918. Eleven transports left Halifax together, convoyed two days out, by 5 submarine chasers. About 5 of these ships were troop ships. Eight sub-marine chasers met us about 2 days and nights out from our destination, and convoyed us through danger zone. Arrived in Liverpool, England, June 28th, 1918, 7 a.m., leaving same date about 3 p.m. Took train across country for Winchester, England, arriving there 5 a.m., June 29th, 1918. Marched out to Horn Hill, an English and American rest camp, where we rested one day and night, leaving there Sunday June, 30. Took train to South Hampton, arriving there 3 p.m. same date. Took ship Londonderry at 6 p.m., and crossed English Channel, arriving at Ocheurbourg at 6 a.m. July 1st. Stopped at British Rest Camp, No. 2, staying there one day and night, leaving July 2nd, 8 a.m., via train for Villers-St. Hoge France, July 4th. Left this place at 1:30 p.m. July 5th. for Prasley by march, arriving about 6 p.m. same day. Went into camp here, being quartered in the old stone houses of the natives. Spent some time here training, securing equipment, and etc. Left Prasley July 18, 1918. and came to Beneuvre. Left Beneuvre Aug. 17, going to La Trece where we remained for Toul, at 9 p.m. ~~Aug. 18~~ Aug. 18, 1918. Arrived in Toul Aug. 18, 1918, and went into quarters at Ecourves, staying until Aug. 22nd, 1918. Left Ecourves night of Aug. 22nd, 1918, about midnight, and came to Griscourt. Left Griscourt 17th Sept. 1918, and went into camp near Mountville, same date. Came to Montauville 20th. Sept., 1918, and established P.C., and Hdqrs. in stone building back of church. Left Montauville 8th. Oct., 1918, hiking through country, and came to Bruley arriving 6 p.m. 9th. Oct., 1918. Left Bruley 9 a.m., 18th. Oct., 1918, and came to Jouay, via trucks. Left Jouay 19th. Oct., 1918, and hiked to Elereourt, a distance of about 4 kilos, where we were stationed. Left Elereourt 22nd. Oct., 1918, via trucks, and ~~went~~ went north about 15 kilometers, stopping in an old field staying one night. Left here next morning and went about 5 kilos further north, hiking. Spent one night here and moved south about 2 kilos., taking up a position on a hill near Guisey, (shelled here by ~~the~~ enemy). Left this place 26th Oct. and moved south-west about 2 kilos (From 22nd Oct. to 5th. Nov. near Nantillois) Left last named position near Nantillois 5th. Nov., moving north about 12 kilometers, near Ainoreville. Went into camp in an old barn on a hill here. Left position near Ainoreville 11th. Nov., 1918, and came to Mousay, a town about 12 kilometers from Ainoreville. Went into quarters in an old French building, erected in 1779. Moved from Mousay to Villersfranche, about 3 kilos, on 17th Nov., 1918, and spent one night here, moving next day, 18th Nov., to Saulmory, a ~~small~~ small town, about 2 kilos east of Villersfranche. Left Saulmory 24th., ~~Nov.~~ Nov., hiking through the country about 15 miles to Marville, establishing Co., and Hdqrs. in ~~the~~ this town.

*Keep this till I see you
all. for I want to tell
you all about it.*

Left: Private Wallace's uniforms medals and other military articles from World War 1. His duty shows combat in France and his sniper training in the United States. His issue rifle and matching scope assemblies shown with all accessories.





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Season's Greetings

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. In this spirit we say, simply but sincerely... thank you!



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