

U.S.
MARTIAL ARMS
Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter* 

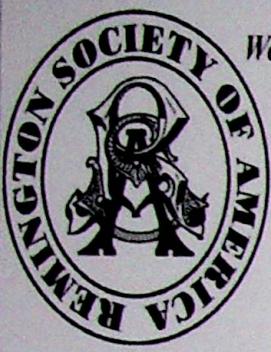
Number 174 March 2023

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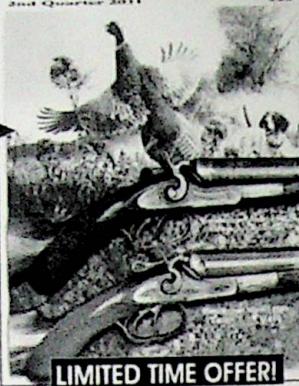
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U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

And
***Springfield
Research Service
Newsletter***

Number 174

March 2023

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U.S. Martial Arms Collector 174-1

**SPRINGFIELD REASEARCH
SERVICE and U.S. MARTIAL ARMS
COLLECTOR MAGAZINE.**

Springfield Research service is receiving more inquiries, requests for serial number lookups, frequent questions, and requests for U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazines.

We are responding to all emails and written letters as soon as possible. The time to complete research letters will be extended due to U.S. Archive regulations and travel.

The cost of research letters will increase. Detailed letters will require extra work for Henry rifles, documented Spanish American War Krags, seventh, fifth, and other extensive research on cavalry and other military units.

We are fortunate to have knowledgeable volunteers that assist us in research work. Voice mail is a problem and is basically not useable because of poor reception and missing data.

We are pleased to confirm receiving renewals for our magazine and requests for research on interesting weapons. Springfield Armory sales letters with documents continue to be produced. We will try to maintain our prices, but inflation and increases in research time and delivery options are unknown.

Many U.S. Archives documents are missing or require detailed knowledge before starting research. Archive data is in different buildings and cities. They were moved from Washington D.C. Springfield Research Service personnel were

fortunate to have made old copies of some files. They are in poor copied condition or from required government made copies on old technology machines.

A single serial number with model and make is required for each email request. Submissions of lists are often lost and cause major delays.

Serial number lookups are completed as time is available and accomplished second to magazine requirements and deadlines.

Serial number lookups are made using serial numbers with model and manufacturing data. A subscriber may email information to editor@usmartialarmscollector.com or mail to SRS, Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818.

We visit our U.S. postal box five or more days each week. We answer email and letters with any information available.

A letter can be ordered if we have research information and the letter is paid by a subscriber.

All subscribers may submit payments by check or PAYPAL. Please be careful and check only boxes with PAYPAL payment instructions. Subscribers may or may not want automatic paid renewal status. Multiple emails only take more time and delays in our answers.

We receive magazines returned with incorrect addresses or no forwarding addresses.

AUCTION HOUSES

Auction houses are maintaining high-volume sales and record-breaking high-dollar purchases. They all expect this trend to continue during 2023.

We would welcome comments on sales markets and other data on rare and more common weapons from our subscribers. There is a wealth of information in collectors' personal data.

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE DATA BASE STATUS

SRS relies on the U.S. Postal Office for all delivery of our products.

ADVERTISING

We reserve extra copies of each printed issue but cannot keep an unlimited number needed for reserves. Lately, SRS ran out of many contemporary issues. We rely on our current mailing lists for our subscribers.

2023 SCHEDULE

March 2023 issue deadline is 12 February.
June 2023 issue deadline is May 13, 2023.
September 2023 issue deadline is August 2023. December 2023 issue deadline is November 11, 2023.

LETTERS WRITTEN

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .22, Model 1922 M1, with M 2 bolt, N.R.A. Serial Number 20131. Sold to Major Harry D. Dodge, Aux., Res.,

The Chatham, 600 Pingree Ave., Detroit, Michigan, June 22, 1934.

Pistol, Model 1907, Serial Number 118, Issued to Troop H, 2nd Cavalry. Altered by Colt Firearms Company. November 13, 1909.

U.S. Springfield Model 1903 Receiver, Caliber .30, Serial Number 1 269 271, Service Type. Sold to Kowa RC Kowa, KSC), June 19, 1926.

U.S. Springfield Model 1903 National Match Pistol Grip Stock, Caliber .30, Serial Number 1 247 720. Sold to Ray W. Sanford, San Jose, California. September 27, 1924.

U.S. Springfield Model 1903, Caliber .30, Serial Number 1 361 608, National Match. January 22, 1940.

U.S. Springfield Model 1903, Caliber .30, Serial Number 1 406 688, National Match Pistol Grip Type. Griffin & Howe, (Sale), March 9, 1934.

U.S. Springfield Krag Model 1896 Special, Modified Sporter Stock, Special Bolt Mounter Peep Sight, Caliber .30, Serial Number 49648 with engraved trigger guard and side plate.

U.S. Springfield Model 1903, Caliber .30, Serial Number 1 361 608, National Match. Sold to J. T. Bell Hackensack, NJ. January 22, 1940.

Cover: Winchester W.C.F. Fore runner to .22 Hornet Springfield rifles.

A CCC Camp M1911 Colt Pistol

By Charles Pate

The 1920-1940 period was one of considerable lawlessness in American history. Thirteen years of prohibition (1920-1933) followed by the Great Depression certainly contributed to significant "organized" crime with well-known gangsters like John Dillinger and Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow robbing banks and breaking into National Guard armories to steal small arms. As one would expect, the U.S. Army Chief of Ordnance (COO) records contain numerous documents related to the security, or lack thereof, of National Guard armories.

But a far greater proportion of the records concern more generalized crime, or at least the concern about such crime. An additional factor that contributed to the latter concern was the fact that, after the end of World War I, a great many military pistols and revolvers were illegally returned to the U.S. by the soldier who had used them in service.

The only persons then authorized to legally purchase and possess U.S. property-marked arms of the current service patterns were officers of the various services and, on a limited basis, banking officials and members of the NRA. But during the 1920-1930 period there was a real problem in determining the status of any given weapon that happened to come to the attention of law enforcement organizations or military personnel. Up until 1918 the Army had maintained serial number-specific records of arms sales, but the press of war activities made it impossible to continue keeping such records.

A concerted effort to reestablish property serial number records was begun in 1922 with the intent to maintain records on arms currently on hand in arsenals and depots and in the hands of the troops, as well as to collect data on the 1918-1922 period where possible. Consequently, the COO files contain a great many letters where the writer was attempting to determine the provenance of a weapon. These letters came from state and local law enforcement officials, the U.S. military, other federal government agencies, and citizens concerned about the legality of their owning these arms.

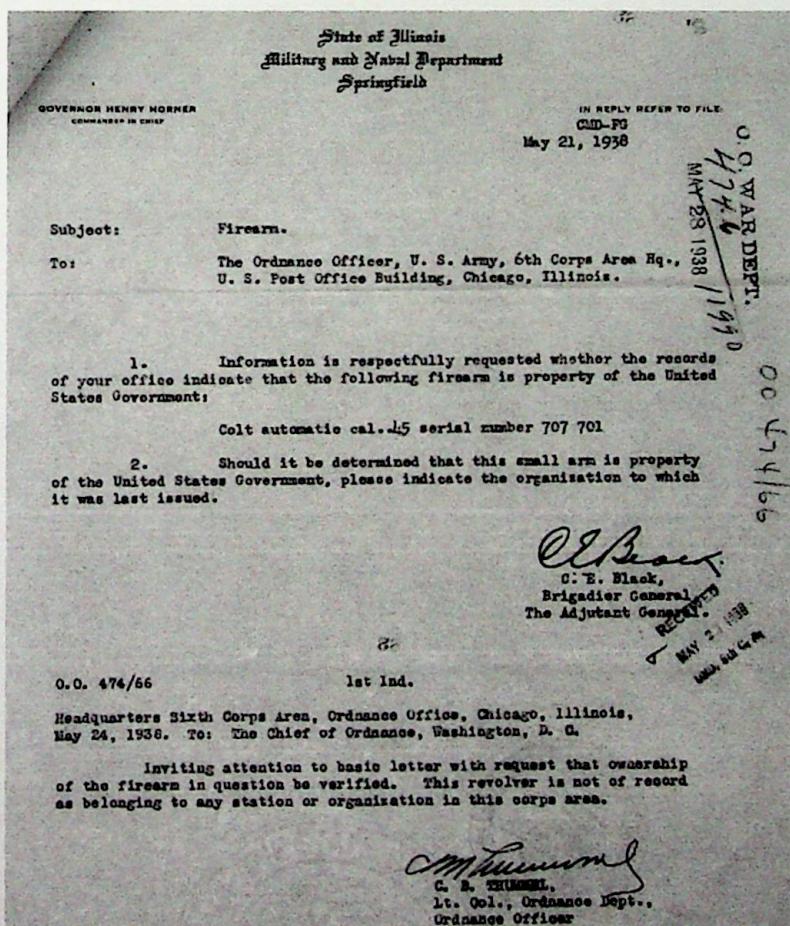
In the case that is the subject of this article, the documentation that records the history of Colt Model 1911 pistol number 707701 began with a 21 May 1938 inquiry from the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General to the U.S. Army 6th Corps Area Ordnance Officer (CA OO) asking if the pistol was government property. While the details are not given in this documentation, the pistol had been found or seized, apparently by Illinois law enforcement personnel, and then turned over to the Illinois National Guard due to it having U.S. property markings. The 6th CA OO did not have any record of the pistol's serial number in his records and he forwarded the inquiry to the COO. As noted above, starting in 1922 the COO had required ordnance facilities that sold small arms to report those sales to the Ordnance Office. In this case, the COO was able to tell the 6th CA OO that the Springfield Armory had sold this pistol to Lieutenant (Doctor) Seymour Fisher, Medical Reserves, 1604th Company, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Camp Richland Center, WI, on 3 October, 1935.

The COO asked for the status of the pistol, in order to update their records and the subsequent communications disclosed that the pistol had been stolen from Dr. Fisher's car in Springfield, Illinois, on 6 May 1938 and later recovered by the police. The pistol was returned to Dr. Fisher at the conclusion of the investigation.

The photos in this article are courtesy of the pistol's owner, Mr. Michael Dolfi, who is doing additional research on the doctor and

his service at the CCC camp. This New Deal work program was established by the federal government on 5 May 1933. It employed more than two million men aged 18-25 to conserve natural resources. Dr. Fisher's company, the 1604th Company CCC, was formed at Fort Sheridan, IL in May of 1933 and initially served at Camp Beaver in Clam Lake, Wisconsin where they cleaned forests of slashings left by lumber companies, planted new trees, controlled forest fires, and helped build state parks. They moved to Camp Richland Center in 1935.

Below: State of Illinois Military and Naval Department Springfield



Below: Second and third endorsement signed by Lt. Col. H.B. Taylor

0.0.474.6/11990
6CA 00 474/66

2nd Ind.

ELK/ets

War Department, Ordnance Office, Washington, D. C., June 2, 1938 -
To: Ordnance Officer, 6th Corps Area, Chicago, Illinois.

1. The records of this office indicate that Colt Automatic
Pistol, Cal. .45, M1911A1, serial number 707701 was sold by Springfield
Armory, October 3, 1935 to Lt. Seymour Fisher, Med. Res., 1604th Co.,
CCC, Camp Richland Center, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

2. This office would be interested in any information
concerning the disposition of this arm in order that the records may
be changed accordingly.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance:

H.B. Sayler
H. B. Sayler
Lt. Col. Ord. Dept.
Assistant

JUN 6 1938
ORDNANCE
6TH CORPS AREA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

006CA 474/66

3rd Ind.

Headquarters Sixth Corps Area, Chicago, Illinois, June 6, 1938.
To: The Adjutant General, State of Illinois, Springfield, Ill.

1. Attention is invited to preceding indorsement.

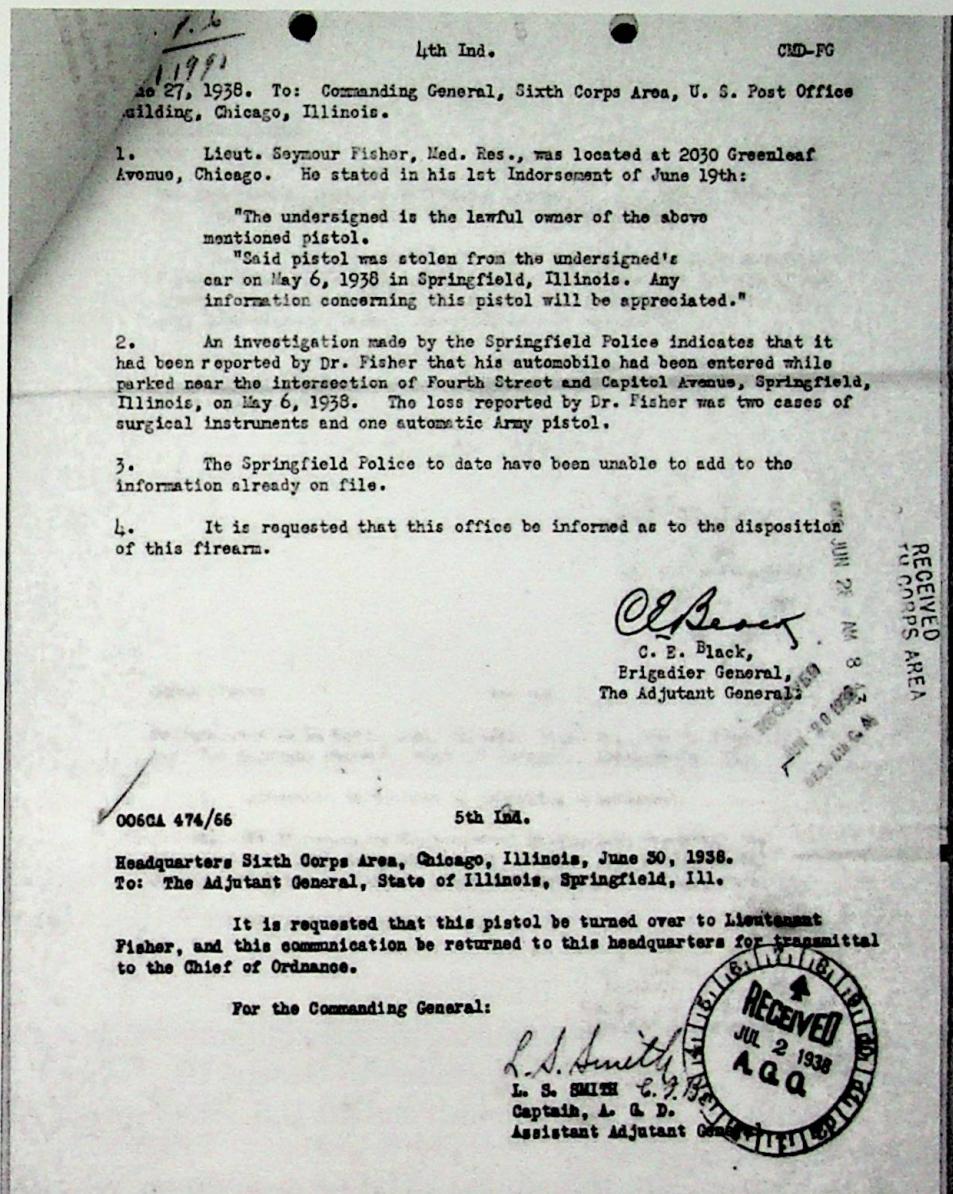
2. It is requested that further information regarding the
disposition of Colt automatic pistol, caliber .45, M1911, serial
number 707701 be furnished for the records of this headquarters.

For the Commanding General:

L. S. Smith
L. S. SMITH
Captain, A. G. R.
Assistant Adjutant General

RECEIVED
JUN 8 1938
1 Q Q
U. S. ARMY

Below: Fourth endorsement signed by Brigadier General C. E. Black, Adjutant General.



Below: Colt Model 1911, Serial number 707701.



Editor's Note: Superb blue finish, correct sights, safety, hold open latch. Trigger, grip safety, walnut checkered grips, and patent dates April 20, 1897 September 9, 1902 December 19, 1905 August 19, 1913.

Many of these pistols are very rare and made during the days of limited U.S. Army budgets, they were special ordered and completed for members of General Black Jack Pershing, Captain George Patton, the first U.S. aviators to see combat and the U.S. Army travels of four hundred miles into Mexico prior to World War 1.

The Army personnel were first to see combat in Mexico and served in the beginning days of World War 1 because of their active combat experience.

Below: Right side of Colt Model 1911, Serial number 707701 with slide marked Model Of 1911 U.S. Army, and frame marked United States Property no 707701.



SERIAL	MODEL	MMDDYY	USAGE
76397	110839		PUBLIC BLDG ADMIN
76398	081314		OCO (ISSUED)
76399	081314		OCO (ISSUED)
76399	110839		PUBLIC BLDG ADMIN
76400	081314		OCO (ISSUED)
76402	052024		SVC CO 5TH INF
76460	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76461	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76462	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76463	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76464	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76465	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76466	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76467	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76468	031217		CO B 117TH ENGR AEF

The following serial numbers are samples of Springfield Research Service selected data base. We were fortunate to have searched and found this data and saw the long term use in supporting our Us Mart Arms Collector Magazine. We may never get this opportunity to work with the current day Government budgets, Covid, and National problems.

76470	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76471	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76472	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76473	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76474	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76475	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76476	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76477	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76478	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76479	090214	SA TO BENICIA ARS
76479	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76479	010738	INQUIRY FROM OO
76480	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76481	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76482	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76484	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76485	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76486	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76487	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76488	031217	CO B 117TH ENGR AEF
76490	111618	STEEL HELMET TESTING
76494	111618	STEEL HELMET TESTING
76515	032439	NYC PD
76515	051626	16TH INF (STOLEN)
76535	101631	CO H 18TH INF FT HAMILTON
76545	032647	GRAND ISLAND FLD
76589	120340	TRP F 115TH CAV (H-MECZ)
76645	051131	APG (FOR ORGANIZED RESERVES)
76675	082817	FT SILL

Below: Colt Model 1911, Serial number 707701 with closeup of serial number and fine original condition.



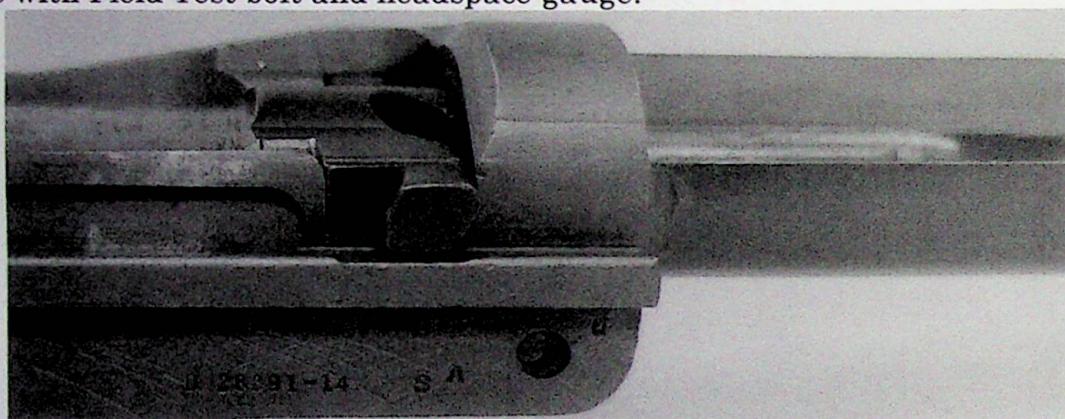
Editor's Note: We thank Lt. Col Charles Pate for his time and effort to call this effort to our attention, provide pictures, special research, and diligent support of Springfield Research. His history of providing detailed books on Colt Firearms and many other topics is a welcome asset to collectors and dealers throughout the United States.

Head Space M1 Garand : *courtesy of Larry Babcock*

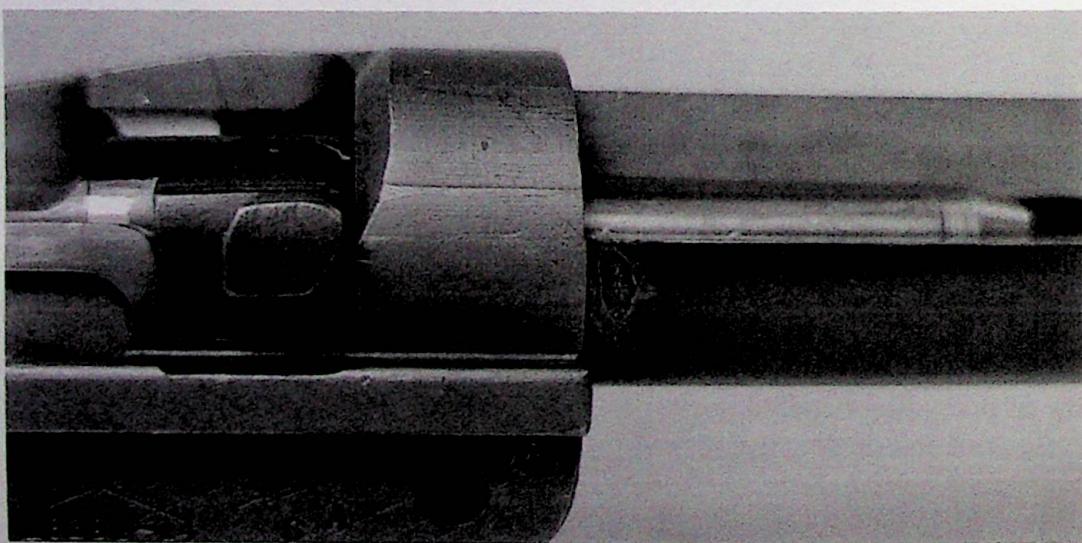
Head space is shown on the M1 Garand test fixture, but is checked on all firearms in a like manner. Training fixture (Improvised), Cutaway of chamber. Training aid for demo headspace.



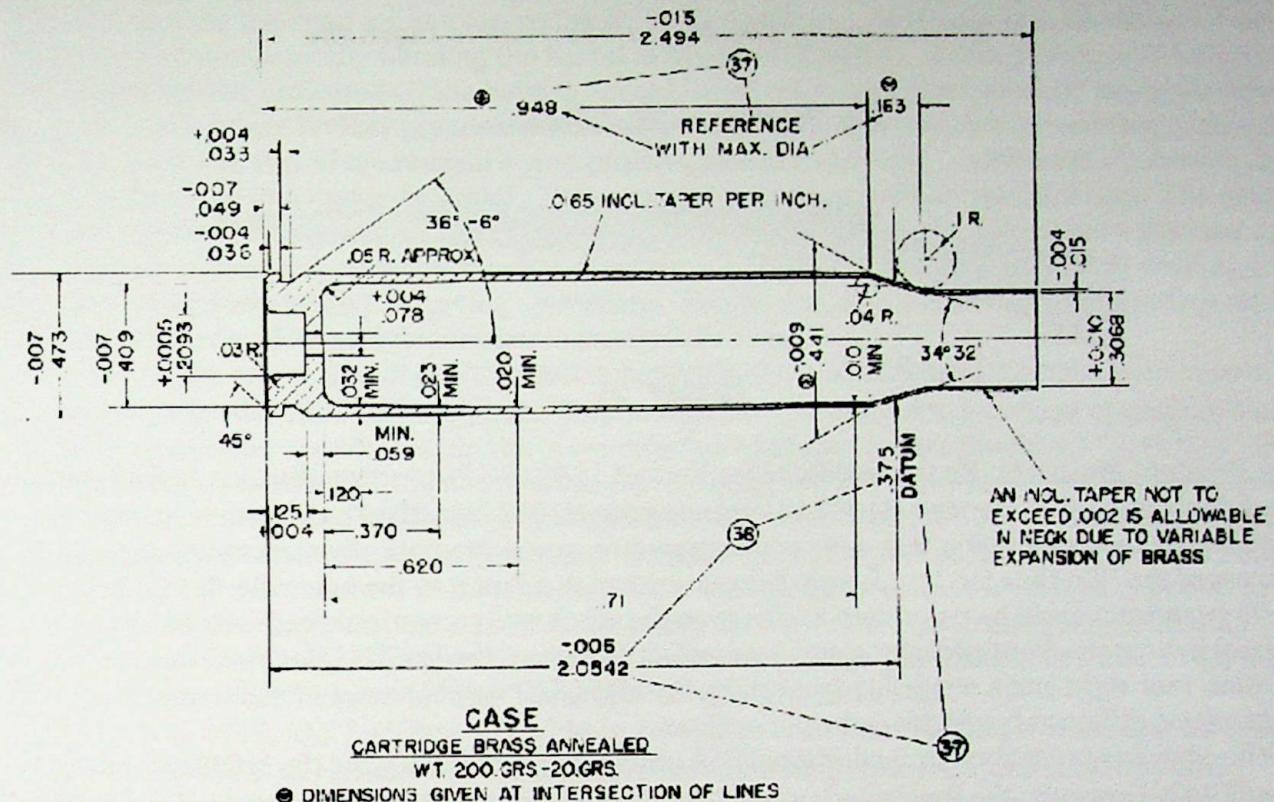
Fixture with Field Test bolt and headspace gauge.



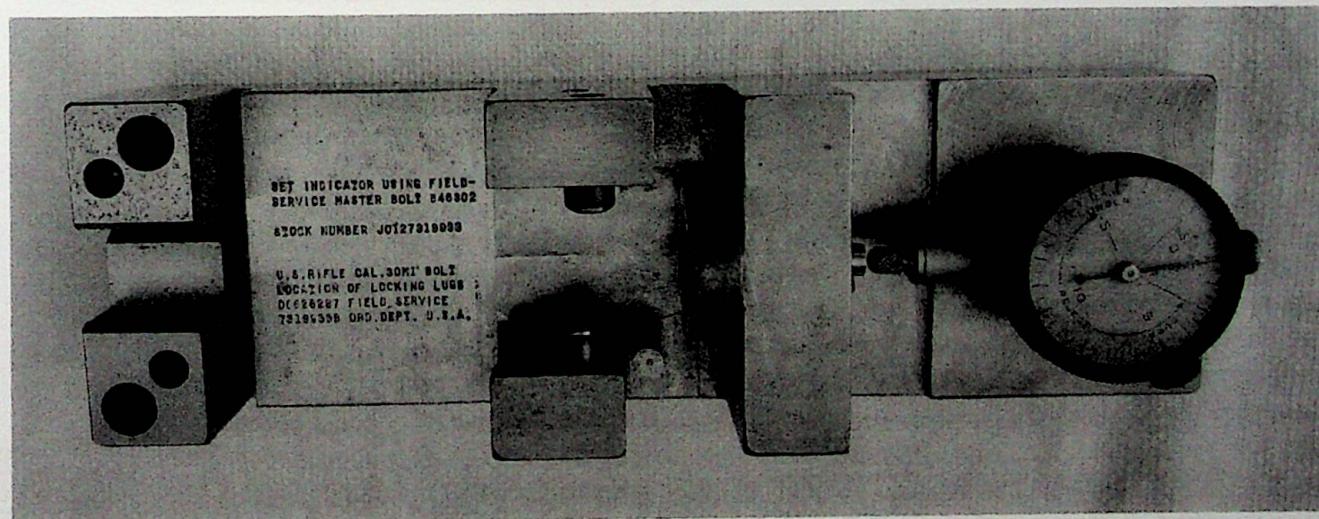
“GO” Gauge in cutaway chamber. Bolt will GO closed.



“NO GO” Gauge in cutaway chamber. Bolt will not GO closed. This example is done with a test bolt and GO and NO-GO gauges. Head space is measured from the face of the bolt to the DATUM of the head of the chamber.



In real use the bolt that is used in the firearm to allow for bolt ware. Bolt ware can be checked for the M1 Garand with this tool

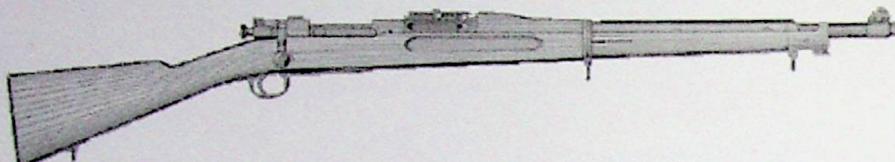


Additional information for the M1 Garand can be found in the "M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II".

"On Target without a Shot Fired"

A WWII Story of Remington's Incredible Ingenuity

By William R. Hansen



(PART 2)

The BSA Reaches Maturity: By the middle of September 1942, the Production Division had essentially completed development of the new M1903A3 replacing the M1903 "Modified". A number of trials rifles were being tested with the expectation that daily production rate would dramatically increase by November 1942. With success of the BSA thus far, it suddenly became critical to adapt it to the new rifle. It was believed the same basic apparatus could be translated easily, even though it was recognized there would be something of a role reversal in how the front and rear sights interacted. Whereas, the M1903 "Modified" fundamentally had a fixed position rear sight and a moveable front sight, the M1903A3 would have a movable rear sight with a fixed front sight with 5 different height blade height options.

A budget was presented for 5 additional BSA units altered especially for the M1903A3 and approved in November 1942. However, the forecasted production schedule for the 'A3 was interrupted resulting in an unexpected delay.

As the new rifle began to undergo final testing for targeting and accuracy, it had to compete with the still manufactured M1903 "Modified" during a planned transition period. A decision had been made to have the existing BSA to continue handling all "*point of aim*" targeting for the old gun while conventional fire-testing on the range would handle the new gun through the transition plus any old gun overflow. Then suddenly the snag showed up during peak production periods, i.e. the gallery range became overloaded due to "...a large number of the new RS03A3 rifles failing to hit the paper with the first shot". This failure increased the sighting time per rifle considerably, thereby appreciably slowing down the entire targeting process. To make a long story short, it was soon discovered that the new '03A3 Rear Sight required significant redesign. As summarized in a series of letters beginning November 12, 1942 between the RAC, the Chief of Ordnance and Ordnance Rifle Committee, the original adopted rear sight "...caused rifles to shoot more than the permissible tolerance above the point of aim when used in conjunction with the highest front sight blade". In a nut shell, the rear sight version had to be scrapped, redesigned and recalibrated, thus aggravating the already reduced total rifle production for the months of September, October and November. By the end of December, the replacement final edition had been affirmed resulting in final approved delivery of the first 1909 of the new M1903A3 rifles.

Summary of the M1903A3 Program: The BSA experience as related to the M1903A3 didn't really get off the ground until early 1943. Therefore, it will not be comprehensively covered in this article since operationally, the process essentially paralleled what occurred in 1942 with the M1903 "Modified" edition. Nevertheless, as the device adaption was improved over the months, the BSA became an embedded element in the military production of small arms. Its payoff continued uninterrupted until the RAC rifle contract was unexpectedly terminated in February 1944.

Meanwhile, the bedding problem significantly improved. In a June 7, 1943 memo from Merle Walker to Paul Darby, he reported "...the bedding of the RS03A3 is apparently better than the old rifle as far as it affects the point of impact as production is now getting only about 1 to 1.5% rejects from the Bore & Sight Aligner". Research was to continue regarding the study of "...whether final targeting can be completely eliminated". By the end of June, three of the BSA units were in full time production use.

Then in December, Ilion's Industrial Engineering Division (IED) began experimental work on a barrel straightening fixture to take a maximum of guesswork out of the process towards the ultimate objective of completely eliminating the need for any ammo firing. The experiment involved a muzzle clamping device involving a vise and mechanically bending the barrel in the right direction. A test trial on 100 barrels for which 33 were found defective, indicated all the barrels "...could meet alignment requirements" using the new fixture. On January 11, 1943, Merle Walker presented the idea to Paul Darby. It was recognized that such a single mechanical operation in lieu of the normal 4 step process, would essentially "...eliminate the human factors resulting from the visual and manual method...", thus saving significant further time and cost. The proposal was subsequently approved on January 23, 1943 based on incorporating it into the optical bore sighting operation (BSA) to minimize critical war-time labor issues associated with securing skilled craftsmen necessary for separate barrel straightening and Targeting operations. The project was authorized with funding on early February with active developmental work immediately following.

As previously noted, the Ilion, NY targeting facility had a total of 6 firing stations with essentially no expansion possibility. The BSA's primary contribution thus far was related to a savings of ammunition during the targeting step to bring the rifle within the proximate "point of aim" before the final 5 "Accuracy" shots fired within a 3 inch circle. However, Ordnance officials representing the U.S. Army had become very impressed with the RAC creation, and over time systematically reduced the absolute need for 100% firing range targeting and accuracy shooting via Ordnance specification requirements. For example, the RAC was eventually approved to limit the "Accuracy" phase to only to 3 shots instead of 5. This alone forecasted a savings of ammo per year of \$108,000 based on a 360 day year and a 3000 rifle per day delivery rate. As a consequence, the AXS Specifications series was revised downward a number of times through the rest of 1942 and 1943, including permission to fire both the "Targeting" and "Accuracy" shots at the same time.

By August 6, 1943, AXS 782(Rev. 7) had been revised to read that "Each rifle of the first lot shall be tested by firing five rounds of U.S. Government Cal.30 Standard Service Ball Ammunition, and shall meet the requirements for targeting. However, depending on performance, "...in subsequent lots, at the discretion of the inspector, the quantity of rifles targeted may be reduced to not less than 5%" (underlining added). Obviously, the implications of these decisions not only spoke of the success of the BSA, but reduced the cost of ammunition even further, along with time and labor. It is also noted from a November 22, 1943 memo between Paul Darby and H. P. Davis, Production Supervisor- Military at Ilion that "...the precision of the instruments are checked by a standard gun, although changes are rarely necessary". The memo goes on to report that in the year of operation, a minimum of clamp jaws or other moving parts have needed replacement, but "... beyond these minor repairs, no upkeep has been required."

A final report regarding the "Bore and Sight Aligner" was dated January 3, 1944. It was prepared by Merle Walker and approved by his boss W. O. Stauffer. Some of the contents have already been expressed in the foregoing. However, Walker was also of the opinion that when the machines are adjusted to the individual operator, the results "...showed that with favorable conditions, 98.5% of the rifles are sighted satisfactory" with no range firing required (underlining added). It was also noted that while no two individuals "sight" a rifle the same way because of human factor differences, the BSA device assured every soldier of consistent mechanical perfection in sight alignment that wouldn't have been otherwise possible. He went on to affirm these "...machines are serving their original intended purpose satisfactorily by enabling the gallery to target as many as 3500 rifles per day." He also noted that based upon the months of September and October, 1943, the savings on ammunition alone averaged about \$13,500 per month or \$162,000 per year.

While, the final conclusions of the BSA testing program success pointed eventually to complete elimination for any need for firing range testing ...except for an occasional spot check, the RAC never quite got there before Ordnance termination of their rifle contract. The reason more than anything was failure to complete an acceptable adaptation of the barrel straightening feature as part of the BSA which technically remained in a test/trials mode. With cessation of the rifle contract, they simply ran out of time.

Nevertheless, as it eventually turned out, the RAC only needed three of the five additional BSA units for the M1903A3 program for the duration of the Military contract. The reason was largely attributable to ammo and labor savings. When the program ended, the units as finally refined and improved were all being operated by trained women, each delivering about 60 rifles per hour, thus making it possible to deliver 3240 rifles per 18 hour day. The ladies seemed to adapt extremely well to operating the apparatus at lesser cost than using regular staff technicians.

EPILOGUE

Remington Lateral Support: The Remington decision to pursue the **Optical Bore and Sight Aligner** project wasn't to go unnoticed. When the RAC initially sought confirmation from the U.S. Ordnance Department to proceed with the project in early 1942, it didn't take long for the word to get out. Soon thereafter, the Inland Division of the General Motors Corporation (GM) knocked on the RAC door inquiring about the device. As most collectors know, GM was among those awarded a contract by the War Department to manufacture the .30 Cal., M1 Carbine.

Clearly, the Ordnance Department had informed GM's Inland Division about the RAC project. And once again, the RAC was to demonstrate their unselfish, patriotic spirit in cooperating with the U.S. Defense Department during the course of the war effort. Before the end of July, 1942, the RAC was requested to direct provide assistance "...in adapting the device for use on the M1 Carbine." A report dated August 12, 1942 documents two individuals from the Inland Plant visiting Ilion to "...for the purpose of discussing the bore and sight aligner." Even though, the Inland folks were advised the RAC had patents pending for the device, it didn't stop their interest. Without going into detail, on August 27, 1942, the RAC agreed to work with the Inland Division by developing a similar device adaptable for the M1 Carbine, including design drawings as well as building the prototype model at no cost except for the labor and materials. Moreover, it was accomplished Royalty-free in the spirit of technology sharing as the RAC had become very much noted during WWII.

On September 11, 1942, R. A. Hentschel notified the Inland Division of GM that the shipment of the optical system was scheduled in the next few days along with prints of the plans and comprehensive instructions in setting it up for operation as prepared by Merle Walker of the Research Division. He closed by saying that if they have any difficulty "...with getting the equipment into operation...", the RAC would arrange to provide any additional support needed.

But, that wasn't to end the lateral support provided by the RAC in the war effort for the BSA device. In January 1943, the Stevens Arms Company in Chicopee Falls, Mass who had been granted permission by the U.S. Government to enter into a contract with the British to produce their upgrade of the Lee-Enfield rifle, also contacted the RAC about their BSA apparatus. Paul Darby from the Bridgeport laboratory visited their plant on January 22, 1943.

Once again, the RAC provided Stevens with the wherewithal necessary, including technical specifications and counsel to replicate a similar device on behalf of the Enfield contract. Merle Walker followed up with providing order details on the Bausch and Lomb lenses and mirror specifications along "...with any further optical parts which may be required". After further interaction with Stevens Arms regarding design details, Paul Darby ended up placing the purchase order with Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. on February 15, 1943 for which the RAC was to be reimbursed.

Patent Approval: Once the pilot version of the BSA had proven itself, it was recognized the device likely contained a number of patentable features. Since the original concept and design emanated from the work of Paul F. Darby of Bridgeport's Research Division, he was credited with exploring the prospects with Remington's patent attorney staff. The conclusion was it indeed contained numerous novel elements justifying putting together a formal patent application. Finally, on October 17, 1942 such an application was presented on behalf of Darby while assigning ownership title to the Remington Arms Company.

The application covered 30 separate features of the design believed to have eligibility and given Serial No. 462336. The patent investigation and approval process is not easy and often takes years depending on the complexity of the submittal. But, good news waited at the end of the process. Darby was finally credited for 16 of the claims with an approval on January 7, 1945 after the device had been fully retired. A copy of the patent drawings for US2367567 detailing function and workings of the device on pages in the Appendix are for reader reference sans the 5 pages of text.

The BSA's Commercial Future: Upon the War Department's contract termination effective on November 25, 1943, it immediately began a wind-down with the last gun produced on February 19, 1944. The M1903A3 rifle manufacture had come to a complete and unexpected halt. While the RAC was subsequently awarded a rifle

repair and spare parts contract that carried on for a few months thereafter, management quickly began to plan for the post-war startup in returning the normal business manufacture of commercial sporting arms.

Nevertheless, after the parts/rifle repair contract was completed, a lot of equipment and tooling borrowed by the RAC and/or especially made for the war effort had to be returned to the Ordnance Department, along with the usual grievous settlement of post-war financial claims and issues.

One of the machines was the BSA being tested by Ilion's Industrial Engineering Division for incorporating a mechanical barrel straightening feature. On August 8, 1944, a Memorandum exchange occurred between R. A. Hentschel, Engineering Superintendent, Technical Division and W. H. Davis, Ilion-Production Superintendent-Military summarizing disposition of the Experimental BSA/Barrel Straightening Device. Ordnance officials had suggested if the RAC wanted to keep it, to declare the device "surplus" and then make an offer on it. After considerable discussion between key RAC decision-makers it was decided to pass on the opportunity based on viability assessment considerations related to their soon return to commercial manufacturing.

One reason had to do with it already being discontinued since Ordnance had been informed months ago that all work "... was being suspended due to abandonment of the manufacture of complete Springfield Rifles at Ilion", i.e. the "...experimental machine was not completed in sufficient time to be placed in operation before the expiration of the contracts for Springfield rifles." Another reason was the device was not considered worth the amount of money already expended in developing it, i.e. its primary value would be limited to the "...pump motor and control equipment incorporated in it". Lastly, commercial arms production doesn't really have the volume implications to justify the economics of its use as presently developed, especially when considering that such a machine couldn't be singularly adapted to the many different guns in production as well as future model changes without prohibitive cost.

One Last Hurrah for the BSA: Remington's "Optical Bore and Sight Aligner" just had to take one more bow before its WWII retirement. Frank Kahrs was a former NRA staff writer for the "Arms and the Man" magazine (predecessor to the "American Rifleman" (AR) before joining the Remington Arms Company to become its Service Manager in 1916. But, Frank never really quite left the NRA. Indeed, as those who are avid vintage AR readers and collectors know, Frank effectively owned the center-fold pages to NRA's publication until his retirement. He had eventually evolved into becoming the RAC's national Promotional Manager and likely the most influential employee in Remington's history. Having lived almost a century, Frank was an extraordinary man known and respected throughout the entire arms manufacturing industry during much of the 20th Century.

Moreover, he never missed an opportunity on behalf of his employer to publish current RAC happenings through his regular "Rifle News" column in the AR. Attached for reader interest is the piece published in the July 1944 issue regarding the BSA. It is a confirmation read.

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT
Rifle  **News**
EDGEMERE, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

NEW DEVICE ADJUSTS SIGHTS WITHOUT TEST FIRING

REMINGTON'S research engineers have developed a new, compact, easily operated and inexpensive device with which the sights on Springfield rifles can be quickly adjusted without firing them at all.

This new device not only saves time and labor, but eliminates the necessity for a large investment in range facilities and creates a substantial saving in ammunition formerly used for testing. The saving to the government has amounted to about \$300 per day. Use of the invention has been offered the government, to be made available to any other manufacturer of small arms, on a royalty-free basis.

The principle of operation is optical. A plug is inserted into the barrel at the muzzle of the completed gun. Attached to the plug is a tube containing mirrors and lenses. The tube is above the bore line, or outside the barrel, and can easily be set exactly on the line of sight. The front and rear sights are then illuminated and, by means of the tube of lenses, the images of the sights are projected upon a screen. These images form a pattern which changes when the sights are moved. The action is similar to that of artillery or camera



range-finders which show an object in dual. Adjustment brings the dual objects together into one. At this point the alignment is perfect.

While probably no two people "sight" a rifle the same way, due to the human equation, this new device assures the soldier of mechanical perfection in the alignment of sights.

• APPENDIX:

- * Patent No. 2,367,567; 2 pages
- * List of the 527 Test Guns from Part 1; 4 pages

Jan. 16, 1945.

P. F. DARBY

2,367,567

OPTICAL OBJECT ALIGNING DEVICE

Filed Oct. 17, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

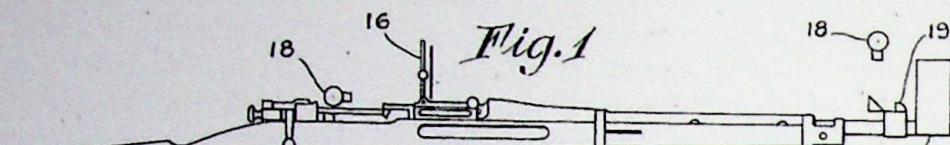


Fig. 2

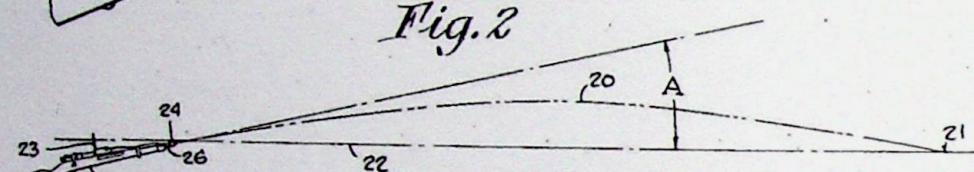


Fig. 4

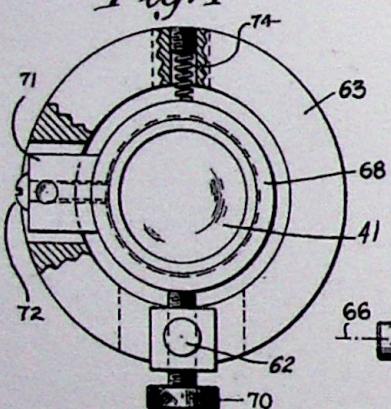


Fig. 3

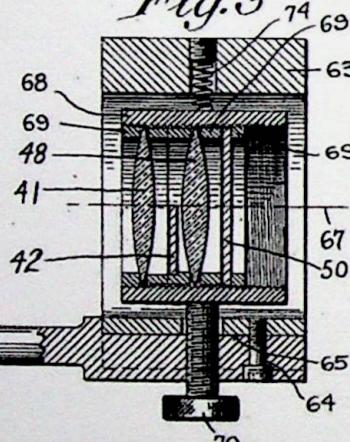


Fig. 6

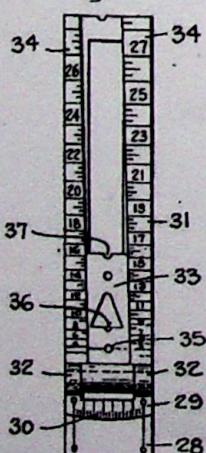
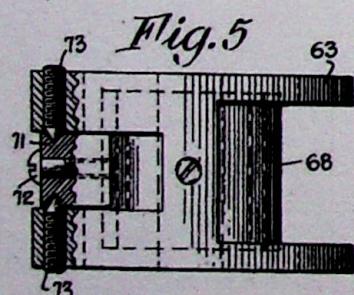
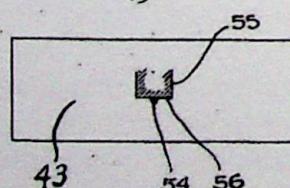


Fig. 7



INVENTOR
PAUL F. DARBY
BY
D. Lester Smythe
ATTORNEYS

Jan. 16, 1945.

P. F. DARBY

2,367,567

OPTICAL OBJECT ALIGNING DEVICE

Filed Oct. 17, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 8

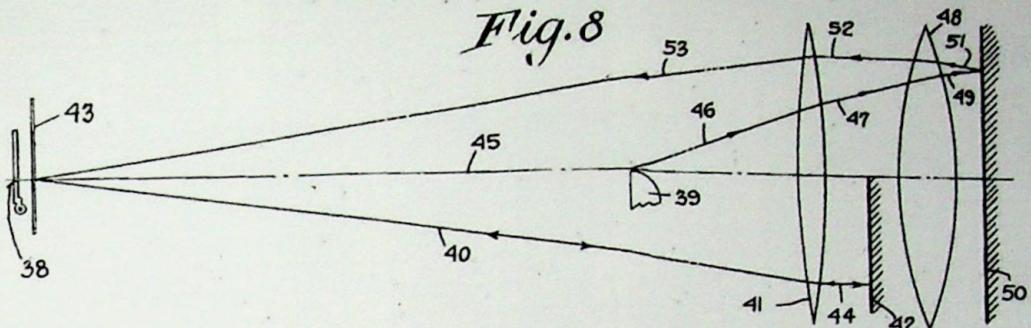


Fig. 9

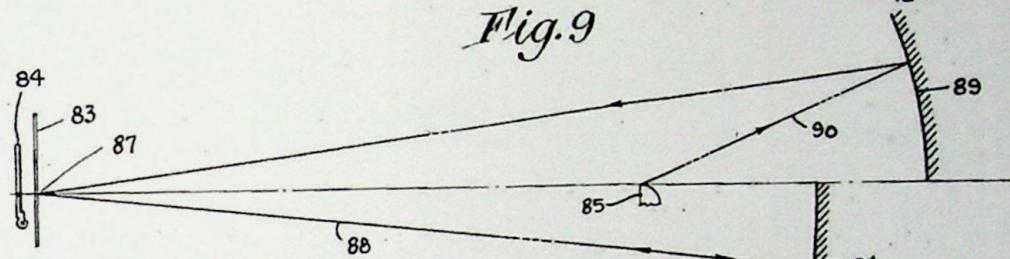


Fig. 10

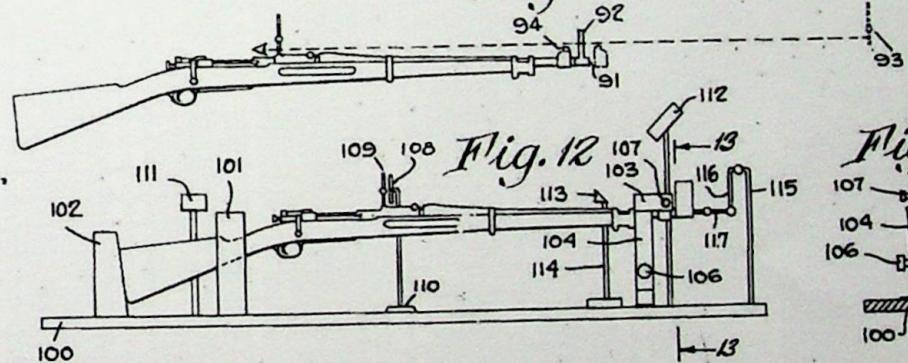


Fig. 12

Fig. 13

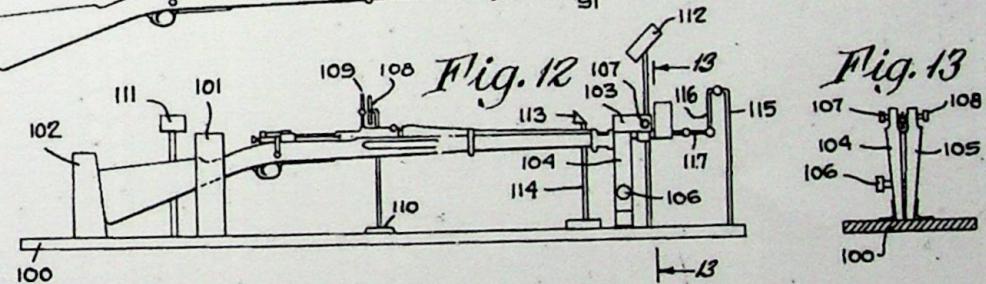


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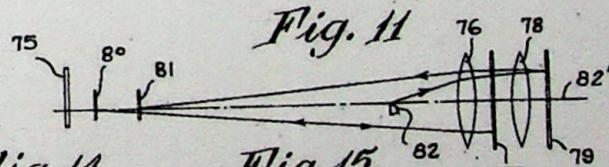


Fig. 14

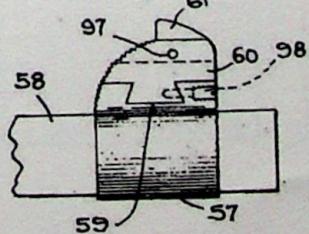
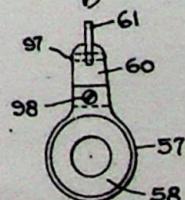


Fig. 15



INVENTOR
PAUL F. DARBY
BY *Paul F. Darby*
ATTORNEYS

Bore & Optical Sight Aligner		
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3219697	09/14/42	Stopper
3220118	09/14/42	Stopper
3220143	09/14/42	Stopper
3220155	09/14/42	Stopper
3220183	09/14/42	Stopper
3220305	09/14/42	Stopper
3220339	09/14/42	Stopper
3220469	09/14/42	Stopper
3220508	09/14/42	Stopper
3220542	09/14/42	Stopper
3220587	09/14/42	Stopper
3220589	09/14/42	Stopper
3220612	09/14/42	Stopper
3220650	09/14/42	Stopper
3220654	09/14/42	Stopper
3220670	09/14/42	Stopper
3220671	09/14/42	Stopper
3220673	09/14/42	Stopper
3220740	09/14/42	Stopper
3220799	09/14/42	Stopper
3220847	09/14/42	Stopper
3220861	09/14/42	Stopper
3220874	09/14/42	Stopper
3220910	09/14/42	Stopper
3220928	09/14/42	Stopper
3220947	09/14/42	Stopper
3220963	09/14/42	Stopper
3221058	09/14/42	Stopper
3221072	09/14/42	Stopper
3221125	09/14/42	Stopper
3221214	09/14/42	Stopper
3221216	09/14/42	Stopper
3221242	09/14/42	Stopper
3221270	09/14/42	Stopper
3221471	09/14/42	Stopper
3223338	09/18/42	Stopper
3223395	09/18/42	Stopper
3223604	09/18/42	Stopper

Continuation - 10		
3223661	09/18/42	Stopper
3224132	09/18/42	Stopper
3224468	09/18/42	Stopper
3224509	09/18/42	Stopper
3224562	09/18/42	Stopper
3224573	09/18/42	Stopper
3224650	09/18/42	Stopper
3224712	09/18/42	Stopper
3224713	09/18/42	Stopper
3224724	09/18/42	Stopper
3224751	09/18/42	Stopper
3224780	09/18/42	Stopper
3224855	09/18/42	Stopper
3224907	09/18/42	Stopper
3224948	09/18/42	Stopper
3224966	09/18/42	Stopper
3225005	09/18/42	Stopper
3225010	09/18/42	Stopper
3225075	09/18/42	Stopper
3225146	09/18/42	Stopper
3225157	09/18/42	Stopper
3225192	09/18/42	Stopper
3225248	09/18/42	Stopper
3225271	09/18/42	Stopper
3225371	09/18/42	Stopper
3228181	09/28/42	Stopper
3228828	09/28/42	Stopper
3230065	09/28/42	Stopper
3230425	09/28/42	Stopper
3230559	09/28/42	Stopper
3230855	09/28/42	Stopper
3231542	09/28/42	Stopper
3231771	09/29/42	Stopper
3232178	09/30/42	Stopper
3232377	09/28/42	Stopper
3232586	09/28/42	Stopper
3232674	10/02/42	Stopper
3232762	09/28/42	Stopper
3232796	09/28/42	Stopper
3232882	09/30/42	Stopper
3232994	09/28/42	Stopper
3233162	10/02/42	Stopper
3233252	09/28/42	Stopper
3233334	09/28/42	Stopper
3233451	09/28/42	Stopper
3233660	10/02/42	Stopper
3233730	09/28/42	Stopper
3233764	08/30/42	Stopper
3234005	09/29/42	Stopper
3235093	09/30/42	Stopper





IN REPLYING
REFER TO NO.

602.8d

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC

100 HARRISON STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

2 July 1940.

From: Depot Quartermaster.
To: The Quartermaster, Headquarters Marine Corps,
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Rifles - numbers.

References: (a) DQP Invoice and Receipt #3282 to DQSF of
13 Nov 39.
(b) DQP Invoice and Receipt #7345 to DQSF of
29 Feb 40.

Inclosures: (A) 2 Packing slips.

1. In checking rifles received on above references,
there were found two rifles, caliber .30, M-1903, both
numbered 372,860. These rifles are being held in store for
further disposition.

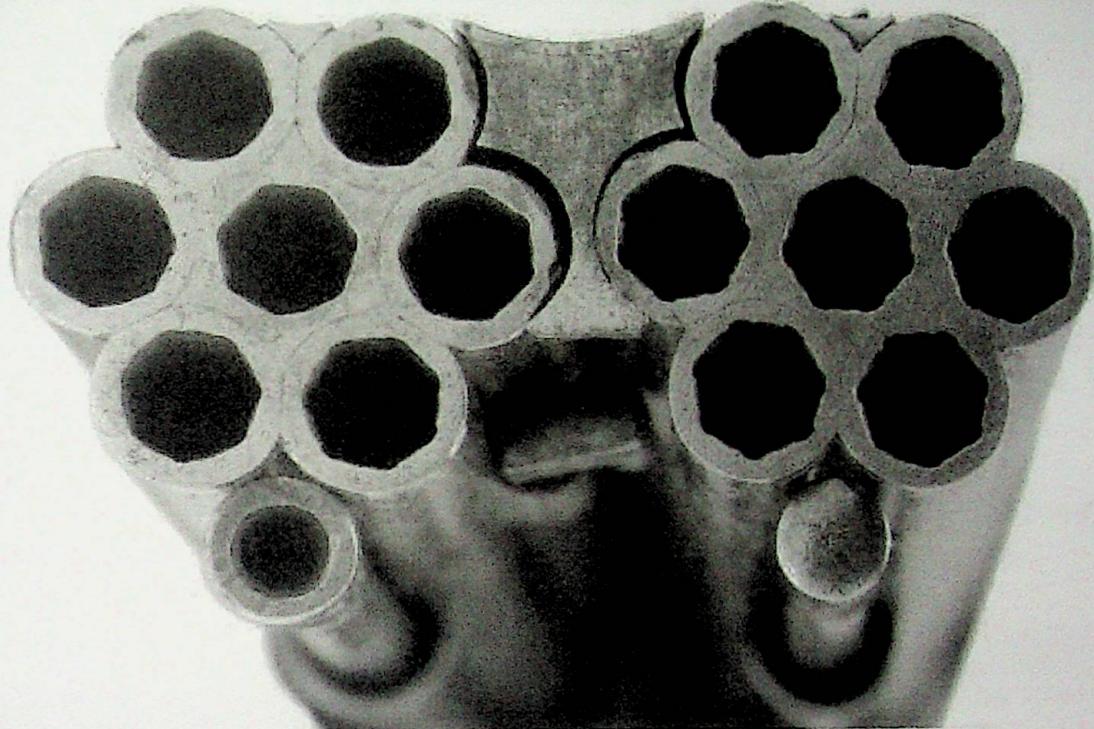
2. Instructions in the premises are requested.

E. C. Long
E. C. Long.

Copy to: Depot Quartermaster, MC., Philadelphia, Pa.

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or visit us on facebook  VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
DIVISION OF PLANS AND POLICIES
WASHINGTON

From: The Director, Division of Plans and Policies.

To: The Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.

CONFIRMATION OF VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS

BY [TELEPHONE
~~OPERATIONAL CONVERSATION~~

Time: 1600

Date: 6 March 1942

Between HQ, USMC, DP&P, GS, (Col. L.W.T. Waller, Jr.)
and Major George O. Van Orden, Quantico, Va.

Reference:

Subject matter: Major George O. Van Orden called from Quantico and reported the fact that he had received information from Mr. Glavin, Assistant Director of the FBI School, Quantico, that the FBI was discontinuing the use of .30 cal.

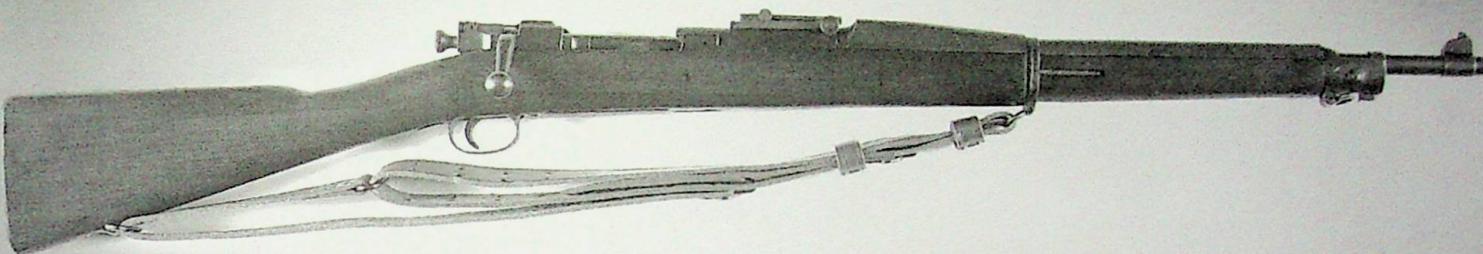
They have at Quantico, 400 Springfield Rifles with sporting stocks, of which 300 are in excellent condition and approximately 100 need rebarreling. He further stated that the FBI has at the FBI Institute, Quantico, 300,000 of caliber .30 M2 ammunition and probably 40,000 rounds in the field that they desire to dispose of and would be glad to sell it to the Marine Corps.

The 400 Sporting Springfields could be used for spare parts, if for nothing else, or restocked into service rifles

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Privateer Variation U.S. Simeon North
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Mac McCroskie Collection

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with Silver Band Inscribed
"NAM," Relief Carved
Grip with an Indian Head
Pommel

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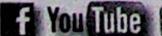
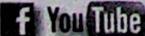
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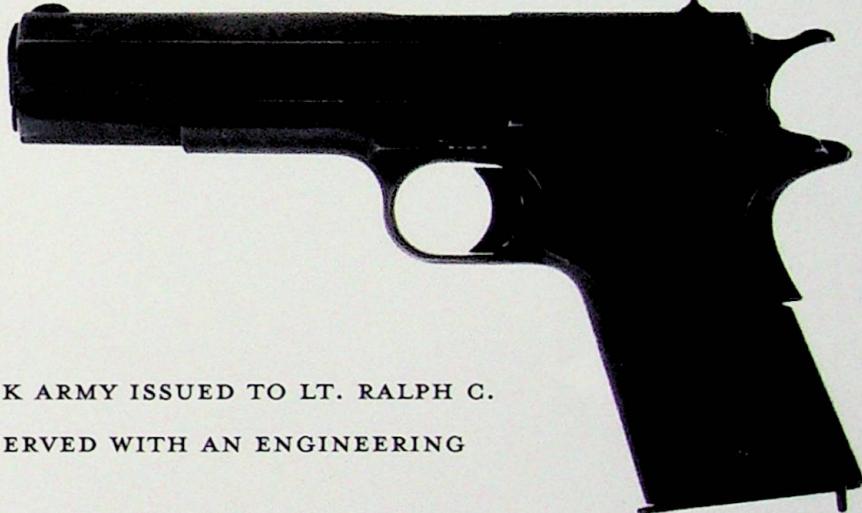


Lewis&Grant

LEFT VIEW



RIGHT VIEW



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