

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter* 

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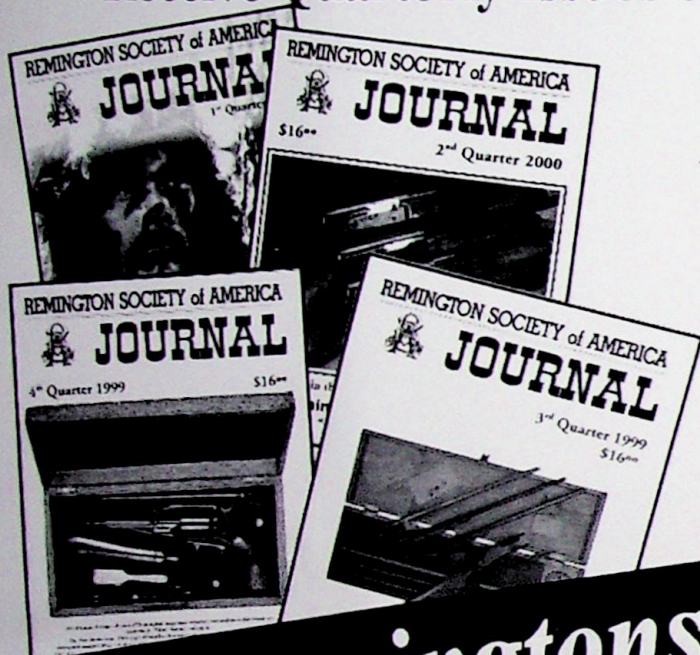
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*Wayne P. Gagner*



# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

CIRCULATION MANAGER

*Wayne P. Gagner*

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**Cover:** Springfield Model 1884 Test Rifle.

*And*

## *Springfield Research Service Newsletter*

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## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

There have been several new issues concerning gun-related political activities. The activities have been in associated government agencies that are not in the normal operations of gun control sponsored by Congressional mandates. We have talked to several individuals at the State Department concerning the Korean M1 Garands that were destined to be sold privately in the U.S. The procedure for importation is quite simple in theory. A license is usually requested at an office in Rosslyn, Virginia, and forwarded through channels for all interested parties. The military services can voice an objection and others can voice opinions. In this case, a private firm wanted to buy, import, and sell a series of weapons that they are purchasing from the country of South Korea.

There were several inputs from the State Department and administration offices. They objected to the importation of obsolete weapons being imported and used as assault rifles. It appears that M1 Garands are listed as curios and relics under the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms guidelines, and the rifles were made in the United States and put up for sale as surplus. This seems to be inconsistent, as the weapons are collectable and curios based on BATF rulings and now other sectors of the Administration claim they are assault rifles.

These comments do not appear to be in compliance with the rules but the license was stopped. It is still hung up in the bureaucracy.

We have made inquiries about some of the issues. So far, it is really unclear and will take a lot of time to acquire the data and print an accurate story. We have been invited to attend State Department press meetings and have been given all of the key contacts at State, Congress, and others. This appears to be all right on the surface, but any research will probably extend into many hours of work and the usual polite conversations, that may be never ending. It may take a lot of our time. We will do some more inquiries as time permits and report our findings as soon as we can.

A second and more political issue is the effort by the BATF to control U.S. Mexico border crossings with weapons control and programs such as "gunrunner." The following data is a result of phone conversations and information from members of Congress and the ATF.

Project Gunrunner is the current administration's southwest border effort between the U.S. and Mexico. The goals of the program were to reduce cross-border drug and weapons trafficking. Congress has stated that the (BATF also known as ATF) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives permitted hundreds of guns to be purchased and used by straw buyers that were suspected to cross the border with possible use as weapons in crimes. BATF documents and interviews included discussions with front-line agents who had serious questions about the effort.

News publications and BATF documents mention government personnel who

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discussed the program with the Center for Public Integrity. There concerns appear to have been that these guns "are going to be turning up in crimes on both sides of the border for decades.

Government personnel provided this data to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Congressional committee was interested, after they found out that the data was dismissed.

Sen. Charles Grassley, the panel's top Republican (very active in the inquiry concerning ATF's actions), stated "it's time to step back and examine the policy". Several Congressional sources say that two of the guns involved in the sting operation turned up at the scene of a fatal shooting of a U.S. agent.

The Justice Department stated that Attorney General Eric Holder has asked the department's acting inspector general to evaluate the concerns about ATF's investigative tactics.

ATF's personnel said that the tactics employed in the Fast and Furious case were part of an evolving change in the strategic direction of firearms investigations. ATF's assistant director in charge of field operations, told the Center for Public Integrity that he personally decided to change the strategy in September 2010 and that guns from small-time straw buyers had little hope of dismantling major drug trafficking

organizations in Mexico. The agency's position on straw buyers was criticized in a review by the Justice Department's inspector general of ATF's border effort, known as Project Gunrunner.

The murder of a U.S. Border Patrol agent in Mexico has caused many Congressional inquiries and action. Members of Congress say that weapons found at the scene of U.S. agent's death have been traced to a federal program that allegedly allowed hundreds of guns to go from the U.S. across the border.

It is still unknown how thousands of U.S. guns fuel crime in Mexico. Investigators at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives called the effort in question, Agents wanted to follow the guns from the U.S. into the hands of Mexican drug cartels.

Attorney General Eric Holder, who oversees the ATF, tried to explain what he knew about the episode at two hearings on Capitol Hill. "You have to understand the way in which the department operates," "Although there are [a lot of] operations, this one ... has gotten a great deal of publicity." Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) has asked for clarification.

Iowa Republican Sen. Charles Grassley has been very active in this area. "At best, the

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ATF was careless in authorizing the sale of thousands of guns to straw purchasers," Grassley said at a Senate Judiciary

committee hearing. "At worst, our own government knowingly participated in arming criminals, drug cartels and those who later killed federal agents."

Sen. Charles Grassley R-IA) also has said, that includes the U.S. Border Patrol agent who died in a shootout in Mexico last December. Authorities traced two weapons to illegal gun purchases at a dealership in Arizona. Issa and Grassley said the transactions were carried out while ATF investigators watched.

No one has been charged in the agent's death and it is unknown if the investigation continues. The Justice Department's internal personnel are also involved.

Holder said that he hadn't been aware of the operation. He told lawmakers it's on his radar screen now. "What I have told people at the Department of Justice is that under no circumstances, in any case, in any investigation that we bring, should guns be allowed to be distributed in an uncontrolled manner,".

Members of Congress say that weapons found at the scene of a U.S. agent's death confirmed the weapon used in the U.S. agent's death, was part of the federal program that allegedly allowed guns to go

from the U.S. across the border.

ATF implemented Project Gunrunner in 2006 as a comprehensive strategy to reduce firearms and explosives- related violent crime associated with Mexican criminal organizations operating in the U.S. and Mexico by preventing these organizations from unlawfully acquiring and trafficking firearms and explosives. Through Project Gunrunner, ATF works in conjunction with its domestic and international law enforcement partners to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the firearms and explosives trafficking infrastructure of criminal organizations operating in Mexico, along the border, and other areas of the U.S. (This data was extracted from ATF documents).

The BATF program would allow the serial numbers and the weapons to be tracked during a period of time and provide data on weapons in their travel. The weapon in question appears to have been bought under the BATF scrutiny, traveled to Mexico, and returned in the possession of a Mexican border crossing. There was a confrontation between the alien and U.S. personnel and a shooting resulted in an American's death. Many charges have been made including very strong letters from Congressmen that have demanded answers to their questions and have outlined the issues to Director Melson at BATF.

At this time, Congressman King and

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Congressman Jason Altmire (D) PA, have introduced HR 1093.

This proposed bill would out-line the BATF's detailed responsibilities and other activities. It is intended to examine many of the issues such as project Gun Runner and Project Fast and Furious to detail many BATF limits with details of Federal Firearms licenses. There are numerous changes listed concerning BATF operations. Funding for BATF has been discussed. At this time, nothing conclusive has happened and it is hoped that an in-depth examination of all issues will be held with appropriate action.

#### **CURRENT ARMS MARKET**

There is an upcoming and very active market for collectors. The internet-related gun auctions are becoming more prevalent and now account for many more auctions in all areas of the country. They are being followed by more buyers seeking collectibles and also more small auction houses are using this service.

The most active auctions have been those on the internet that are coupled with the actual auction at an auction facility. The biggest appears to be PROXIBID. Proxibid is a larger and more complex internet operation that has a main sign-in with the Proxibid company with password and central operations. It has basic rules and procedures with a list of current and active individual auction houses. It appears that the individual houses have similar but not standard buyers,

commissions, shipping, and license rules and fees.

It appears that a 15% fee is charged by most houses and it can vary according to individual auction companies. There may be other fees charged for gun transfers on modern guns as well as antiques. The charges for packing and shipping may also vary. The PROXIBID has a main listing that includes basic information, credit card data and buyer information. Individual companies may have a log-in requirement and credit card charges for each individual sale. The sales are usually advertised on the PROXIBID site, and a buyer may contact the auction company directly or look up the items that are for sale. A buyer may bid one or both ways. One is to bid through PROXIBID, and the other is through the auction house. The total price may vary according to the method used. There are central listings as well as individual listings that have photos, descriptions and estimated prices. Individual auction house have their own descriptions and may not have price estimates.

The sales are more widely covered and include foreign buyers as well as U.S. The final payment bill is generated by the individual auction house, along with any other paperwork and license requirements. There may also be a third party in addition to the auction house. Recent auctions have again provided large sales of quality guns and collectibles to collectors and others. There have been sales that are very high in price for quality weapons in excellent condition. There are also many sales at

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below recent market prices for average and low- end weapons. There have been some weapons that received no bids or bids below minimums that will be offered at a later date or returned to the owners. It appears we are in a combination of strong interest in quality items and low to moderate interest in items that are more common and exist in large numbers.

There is a great increase in internet auctions and many weapons are being sold at a rapid pace. The collector can buy from his home, and major concerns are the cost and an accurate description of an item. The sales commissions, license transfer, and the shipping are raising some costs but there appears to be a good market that challenges gun show visits and prices. Comments include the so-called gun show tax that indicates as much as a 25% per- cent increase over auction house prices .

A buyer must run his or her own analysis of the total cost of an auction sale with commissions and shipping. This would be versus the cost to travel to a show with gas, car expenses and major travel times.

The quality of the weapon and its authenticity are still big issues for the active collector. There are many people with extensive funds to purchase quality weapons. This would include the rare and unique items that are in excellent or better condition. Altered or items with replaced parts will only bring a fraction of current prices and in many cases bring no offers.

The current trends are of great interest to individual and investors that are looking at the market to dispose of their collections.

## **RECENT RESEARCH**

SRS is finding more data on rare weapons and we are writing more research letters.

The most recent search was for a single page with a known serial number. The personnel at the Archives asked for the exact location of the box of documents containing the letter. This in itself requires many hours of research. When the document cart was received, there were 17 boxes containing thousands of documents. I was fortunate that I had written a note to myself with a government locator number. This came from other research and most often, Archives personnel will not let you bring a handwritten note to the research room. I had asked to have my note authorized and stamped with an approval. Without this action I would still be reading through thousands of pages. It is a never ending process.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Please look at the number on your magazine envelope. The number is the last issue for your subscription. We always send a letter advising of the end of your subscription but we also encounter printing and computer errors. Most of the time we find any error but there is always a chance for a mistake and the best correction is a simple email to us to ask about a date or other issues. We are almost finished with our new computer and software conversion.

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This current issue is number 127 dated June 2011. As an example, the number 127 after a name on the envelope would show that this would be the last issue for the subscription. Please look and make sure your expiration is correct and contact us if you notice a mistake.

The current year of 2011 will have issues 126, 127, 128, and 129. We may try sending an email for subscription renewals. This is still in concept. A letter may be the only way for those that do not have email capability.

Our advertising deadlines are the last week of the month that is prior to our new issue. At this time we are standardizing our issues to March, June, September, and December for each year.

### **RARE WEAPONS**

Many rare weapons still show up at gun shows and auction houses. The most recent expensive and top- quality items have been with the large and well-advertised auction houses.

Many collectors find that they prefer a well- written and descriptive catalogue instead of traveling to a gun show. Many collectors have stated that they prefer to buy from a well known auction company that has accurate descriptions, money back guarantee, and a history of backing their sales. SRS finds that we have advanced collectors contacting us for letters

concerning a specific serial number prior to the sale. In many cases this can not be done because of the lead time involved in a search, limited information concerning the serial number, and the requestor is not a U.S. Martial Arms Collector subscriber. We have not figured out an accurate procedure for these requests but they are very serious in light of the rarity and high estimated cost of a rare weapon.

SRS does not provide cost evaluations of individual weapons nor any request to verify authentic without seeing the weapon. We are working on this issue and will try to formulate a procedure.

### **RESEARCH DATA**

Quite often, we receive an inquiry concerning a search for data that can be matched to a serial number. We only use United States Archive or military documents that can be verified. We do not use third-party letters or notes concerning the giving of a weapon from one person to another. We have received inquiries that have a factory letter saying that a weapon was sent to the U.S. Military. We may not be able to find a factual document stating that the weapon was used by a specific person or a specific unit. If there are no documents available, there is no way that we can write a letter. Our research continues but it takes months and years.

### **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS**

We are writing letters for our subscribers, and extensive research takes more time. We

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will continue and our back-up varies from month to month. A letter may take several months to complete. It is a matter of searching all available sources and relying on government personnel. One cannot order several different groups of documents and in most cases only a single group, and we can only look at one box at a time. We must wait in line for a time to address a new box and only look at it after the previous one is turned in.

**Basic letter-** This letter provides information from the SRS data base that was compiled over many years of research. This letter will include information on a weapon and its use, such as military unit, date, and possible secondary information. It will not include specific data on names or combat operations. That data requires us to travel and perform research through extensive visits at government facilities. We can also supply most of the data on a sales rifle. The cost is \$ 50.00 but there may be additional charges if extra searches are required.

**Research letter -** This letter requires travel to government facilities and research of government records. It takes a minimum of one day of analysis and most often 2 days. We can only do a limited number of research letters per year. The more valuable weapons require this type of effort. All of our searches are done by serial number. There is no way to do any other procedure without many days of searching. Completion of the search is based on time and availability to visit the government

facilities as well as their regulations. Additional data will be listed on our web as it becomes available. The cost is \$ 175.00.

## **COMMENTS AND INPUTS**

Please send inquiries and questions to:  
[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com)

An inquiry can be made by mail to SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818. This may take an extended time to look up the number and send a letter by mail.

## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE**

We are exploring all ideas on managing the data base and providing service to our subscribers. On-line service is still an option. We have received many inputs and are always interested in your inputs.

SRS and US Martial Arms Collector Web site is: [usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com)

All of our products are only available to our subscribers and are mailed from:

U.S. Martial Arms Collector, Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.

## **BACK ISSUES OF THE U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINES.**

The older newsletters (number 1 through 54) must be obtained by special request.

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Issues number 55 through 127 are available for \$ 10 each postpaid. Order from U.S. Martial Arms Collector Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818.

### **KRAG RIFLE STORY**

Original new (1999 updated) editions with serial numbers are available for \$ 100 postpaid. They are limited in number and are below costs posted by many book dealers. They are available for subscribers only.

### **COVER**

The cover photo is a fine U.S. Model 1884 Ramrod Bayonet Test Rifle-documented use and listed in 45/70 references.

### **DATA ON BOOKS**

All SRS manuals will be copies of original government documents. We are still behind in this area.

### **LETTERS RECEIVED AND ANSWERED**

Dear Sir: We would like to order a copy of the above mentioned book, (Krag Rifle Story) can you please advise how to do so? Thank you.

*The Krag Rifle Story is available to subscribers to US Martial Arms Collector magazine. Please visit our web site. [usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com) Thank You, Editor*

Dear Sir: Please advise if you have data

on 1903 Springfield serial number 22441. *Sorry, we have no data on Springfield serial number 22441 but we do have information on Rock Island number 22441. Please let me know which arsenal is the manufacturer. Thanks, Editor*

The s/n is a Springfield, I don't think Rock Island and Springfield had the same s/n's. Thanks,

*We have data on ROCK ISLAND 44221. No data on Springfield 44221. Each armory had serial numbers of their own. Each started with number 1 and ended production end. Editor.*

Hi. I got your contact info from the Buffalo Bill Gun Museum in Cody, WY. I have a Winchester made BAR, SN 101xxx. I have gathered that it was made in 1921. If I subscribe to earn your service, what kind of results can I generally expect (especially from an extensive search). My purpose is to increase the selling value of the gun by providing a history of it to the buyer. I look forward to sending you some money.

*We provide serial number searches for our subscribers only. It may be very difficult to find data on U.S. military BAR rifles. Thanks, Editor*

Now that I have finally bought my first Garand I want to know all I can about it. It is Springfield SN 663841 made in June 1942 and that's all I know. Where can I find out what happened to it after it left the armory? If you can't help perhaps you can offer some suggestions as to where I can look. Springfield no longer offers that service so the obvious is not available. I would

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appreciate any help or suggestions you might be able to give me. Thanks.

*Sorry, no data on that serial number.*

*Editor:*

The Springfield Armory historian told me to contact your organization for help. I have a Krag carbine made in 1901. The serial number is 344718.

This gun came from the collection of an older man who passed away 3 years ago. The gun is in great condition being totally original and not restored or tampered with in any way. Both the stock and all metal parts on the gun have a very nice patina consistent with its age. I would love to learn more about it. If you could please search your records for any information about this gun, I would be simply delighted. Please let me know if any research fees are needed.

*We do research for our subscribers only.*

*Please see our web site. Thanks, Editor.*

Pursuant to your request for information on U.S. Model Springfield, caliber 30, Krag Rifles, please be advised that we have reviewed several observations of Springfield weapons manufactured by the U.S. Armory at Springfield, Massachusetts. Of interest was a Krag receiver with no markings, but with original finish and hardening. We have concluded that this receiver was a fixture used in the final fit of Krag parts and assemblies. The Springfield agreement for manufacture of the Krag rifle, stated that a royalty was to be made for each completed service weapon. Research has shown that training rifles, test weapons and fixtures were not subject to the royalty payment. This is true of the 1892 Carbine as well; as both Carbines were dismantled after being tested, and made into rifles. A royalty was paid for the two rifles per inquiry from the U.S.

Congress.

We have found that 1903 receivers were used in the role of test fixtures and other weapons such as Gatling guns and 45/70 rifles also had test fixtures.

SRS has an 1898 type unmarked receiver; an 1903 unmarked receiver, a M2 22 caliber unmarked rifle, and data on M1 Garands, and others. There is also one 1898 Krag with engraving that is believed to be from Springfield Armory.

Articles on several of these guns are in the back issues of the US Martial Arms Collector.

### **Guns Lettered during this period**

U.S. Springfield M1922 Rifle, serial number 1929. Sold on March 23, 1926.

U.S. Springfield Krag Carbine, serial number 28,987 Issued to Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Volunteer Cavalry.

M1903, U.S. (Sport Model). Number 1 275 994. Sold July 13, 1927.

U.S. Springfield 1903 Rifle, serial number 1,270,284 (Sporting Model). Sold on January 17, 1927.

Henry Rifle, serial number 3901.

Issued to: Company K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment United States Veteran Volunteer Infantry.

May 13, 1865.

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Colt Model 1860 Army, serial number 131871, Issued To: Company A, Loudon County Rangers, 1864.

U.S. Model 1903, NRA Sporter, caliber 30, serial number 1345110, sold May 1, 1950.

U.S. Springfield Rifle, Model 1873, serial number 53624, Model 873 Springfield Rifle, Caliber 45/70. Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1879.

Remington Beals Revolver Serial Number 14. Issued to Company I, 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Illinois Cavalry.

1903 Rifle, Cal. .30 serial number 1,314,451, Type T sold by Springfield.

It Model 1851 Navy, serial number 137885 U.S. Issue. Company H 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. 1862.

Colt Single Action Army, caliber 45, serial number 82206, ("Six shooter"). Issued to 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Cavalry, Company I and G. 1898. Also issued a Krag Carbine serial number 28537 and associated saddle, cavalry equipment and miscellaneous items.

U.S. Model 1903 NRA Sporter, caliber 30 serial number 1343865, August 15, 1930.

U.S. Spencer Rifle, serial number 1919, Issued to: Colonel Copeland, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Rifles, July 27, 1863.

U.S. Model 1922 M1, Springfield, caliber 22, serial number 19582, Sold On: July 8, 1930.

U.S. Model M1 Springfield, caliber 22, serial 8010. Sold on March 2, 1927.

U.S. 1903 COLT Automatic Pistol, serial number 570382, Issued to Major General J.T. Honeycutt. February 11, 1965.

U.S. Krag Carbine, serial number 78083, .30 US Gov. Raritan Arsenal. July 31, 1922.

U.S. Model 1911 Pistol, serial number 490033 Caliber .45. Issued to: Sub Base 151. 21 March, 1944. Issued to the US Navy during World War 2. Base 151 is listed as Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

U.S. Model 1873 Springfield, caliber 45, serial number 17508, recovered from the American Indians at the "hostile camp". The specific weapon was returned by Yellow Bear, who was wounded during Custer's fight at the Little Big Horn. Yellow Bear was the son of Rattling Rib. Sent to: U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. September 5, 1876.

U.S. SAA Colt Revolver, caliber 45, serial number 5027, Sent to San Fernando Police, Phillippines. July 18, 1901.

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## **SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1922 REVISITED**

The Model 1922 Springfield Caliber 22 Rimfire is one of the most sought after 22 caliber U.S. training rifles. It was designed by the U. S. Springfield Armory and used by many civilians for hunting and as a quality target rifle. There were many alterations and conversions by the public and U.S. Arsenal personnel.

According to the Springfield Arsenal records, there were 2001 rifles manufactured starting in 1922. There might have been slight changes in production figures due to rebuilding and test production over the years. Springfield continued the program with many more rifles with the introduction of several models of the 1922 M1 and the M2. The Army and almost all services, military schools, high schools, and colleges using the rifles as target rifles. Some rifles were modified for operational use such as Navy mine firing roles. The quality was excellent.

In 1924 a review of the 1922 rifle was made by the Springfield Armory and presented to the Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D.C. The following rifles were accounted for in this report. The Armory sold thirty (30) rifles directly to individuals; an additional twenty (20) were retained by the Armory for experimental use and future orders; and sixteen (16) were sent to other military offices such as the Springfield Museum, other commanding officers, and unique facilities. One(1) rifle was sent from Fred Coon (the designer) back to the Springfield inventory.

It appears that Mr. Fred Coon, the Model 1922 designer made to (2) prototypes. The rifles may be in private collections.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) received and sold or delivered 1,935 rifles. The NRA sales records to members were not kept and details are not known. The NRA did send sixty (60) rifles to the Militia Bureau, four (4) to the Navy, and six (6) to the Navy small arms division. The majority of original rifles were sold to NRA members, military officers, and other qualified buyers. One of the most famous buyers was Major (then) George Patton.

The Washington real estate records of the time show that there were several gun shops in the local area near the NRA. At that time, the NRA could receive an order for a rifle, and arrange for it to be drilled and tapped for telescopic sight blocks. This arrangement has lead to many controversies among collectors who have weapons that were bought directly from the NRA with receivers and/or barrels that have been drilled and tapped.

In very general terms , the Springfield Armory did not drill and tap the 1922 receivers as they would interfere with receiver markings and also go against manufacturing procedures. Model 1922 rifles could be ordered directly with drilling and tapping of the barrels at an extra charge. This was offered as a service for rifles already sold as well as new rifles

The drilling and tapping on receivers was  
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done at Springfield Armory during the machining and finishing operations prior to assembly.

Springfield Research Service has not found any arsenal records of 1922 sales with receivers that were drilled and tapped at the arsenal. The arsenal would drill and tap the barrel as well as providing spare parts, stocks, and barrels for their 22 caliber and 30 caliber weapons. This data is available in the older DCM and sales descriptions in the 19020's and 30's.

The sale and use of parts, conversions, alterations, and upgrades has lead to a wide variety of Model 1922 rifles that are now modified and different from the original Model 1922. The originals had an excellent rust blue finish, quality target stock, and metallic sights. The front sight was a standard Model 1903 sight and base and the rear sight was a lyman No. 48 receiver mounted sight. The early 1922 magazine was also unique to that model and finished in a quality blue. It is interchangeable with other models but was sold with the original model.

The 1922 used a heavy shotgun type butt plate that was steel, blued, and fitted to the rifle. Many were cut back to accommodate shooters unique requirements after sale. The DCM offered an aluminum cast butt plate similar to the standard at a small cost. It could be bought as a part or ordered with the rifle. Several after market buttplates were manufactured including aluminum, and brass. All of the buttplates were attached with screws that were longer than the standard Model 1903 Springfield butt plate top screw or rear swivel screw.

Records do exist for Model 1903 30 caliber rifles being drilled and tapped for receiver sights and also for heavy barrel 1903 rifles.

There were 2 types of stocks assembled with the Model 1922. They were basically the same except that finger grooves were cut into one of the two (2) types. The stocks could be ordered separately from Springfield and there were no serial ranges for either stock type. Collectors consider the finger groove model as separate and of early manufacture but there are no serial number records to verify this.

Quite a few rifles were sold to the Griffin and Howe Company for their custom rifle sales. Examples of these fine rifles are in caliber 22 rimfire and caliber 22 Hornet rifles. They were original Model 1922 rifles that were refinished and in most cases restocked.

During the production of the Model 1922 there were modifications to the rifle. The latest model changes and upgrades were sent out as standard with a new rifle. The most notable were the bolt changes to the 1922 M1 firing assembly type. The original 1922 bolt had a dual firing pin machined from one piece of steel and independently assembled to the front bolt section with a pin.

The bolt throw length was approximately the same as the Model 1903 service rifle. The upgrades and M1 bolt had a single firing pin of different design and later

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designed had a shorter bolt throw with modified bolt with a modified bolt stop assembly.

Magazines and other parts from upgrades were used on later manufacture of the Model 1922.

The upgraded rifles also causes discussions and conflicts among collectors, but valid examples of the Model 1922 exist that came from Springfield with Model 1922 M1 bolts and not the older Model 1922 bolt. In May of 1926, Springfield started shipping Model 1922 rifles with the M1 firing mechanism.

During its production, the 1922 had several interesting variations. The most significant was the thirty (30) inch heavy barrel International Style rifle. This very rare variation had a heavy barrel similar to the 30 caliber International Rifle and was fitted out with the international palm rest, swivel assembly, double set triggers, hooked butt plate, and special fit and finish. The rifles had receiver sights and a modified BAR front sight the same as the 30 caliber International. They were also drilled and tapped for Winchester scopes with six (6) inch spacing between centers. Twelve (12) of the rifles were made under procurement ORD 1317.

Five (5) rifles were issued to Major L. W. T. Waller, U S M C, Captain International Rifle team, Quantico, VA, on May 10, 1924.

Three (3) additional rifles were issued to Team Captain Waller on May 27, 1924 at U. S. Line Pier, Hoboken, N.J.

Four (4) additional rifles were held at Springfield Armory.

In addition to the Griffin and Howe custom rifles, there were rifles made at Springfield Armory for special orders and also for some of the Army Ordnance Officers. There was one or more workers assigned to these efforts and the results were extraordinary rifles with checkering, custom fit and finish.

There have been estimates that only 50 to 100 all original and as manufactured rifles exist today. It appears that there may be more but the number is still small and the rifles with original finish, magazine, and stock are rare. Collectors should be quite wary of some of these rifles as many have been returned to original condition after they were modified. Most military issued rifles had bolts, magazines, and other parts changed as well as a parkerized refinish. The stocks were also replaced with current standard stocks. Later stocks have been replaced with original Model 1922 stocks and butt plates. Many stocks were modified with other butt plates and shortened for a different length. The barrel band is the same for all models but there are different finishes.

Most Model 1922 sales orders were placed through Springfield Armory, however, sales were also recorded from: Benicia Arsenal, Erie Ordnance Depot, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, Ordnance Office, Camp Perry, Ohio, Ordnance Office, Panama Canal Dept., and Philippine Ordnance Depot.

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 127-14*

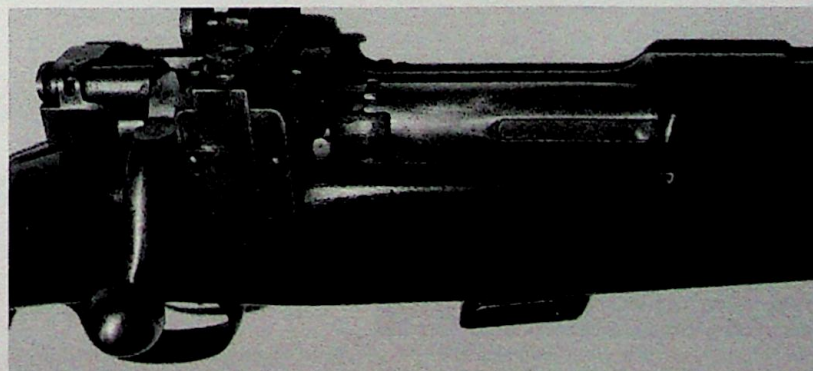


Springfield Research Service is planning on several follow on articles on the various .

Model 1922 M1 rifles as well as the M2 rifle.



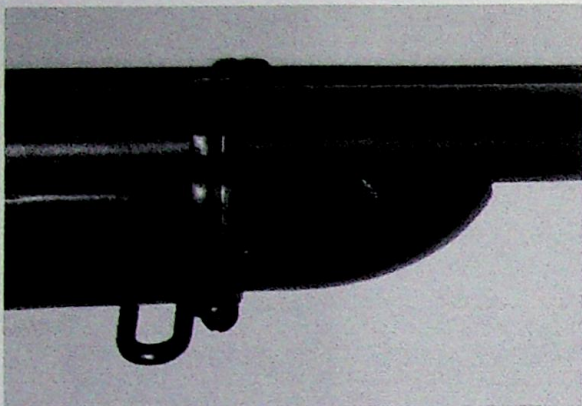
*1922 Rifle serial number 179. Barrel date May, 1922.*



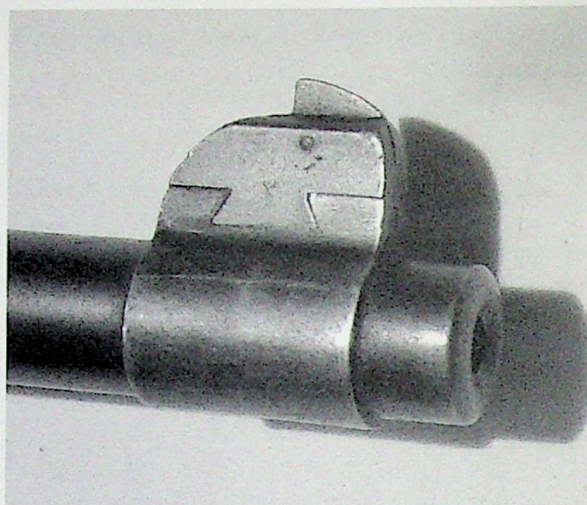
*Right side with rear sight and clip.*

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 127-15*





*1922 Band and Swivel*



*Front Sight Assembly*

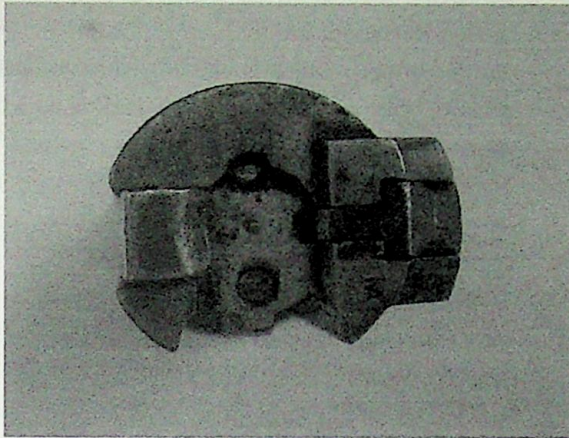


*Model 1922 Clip*

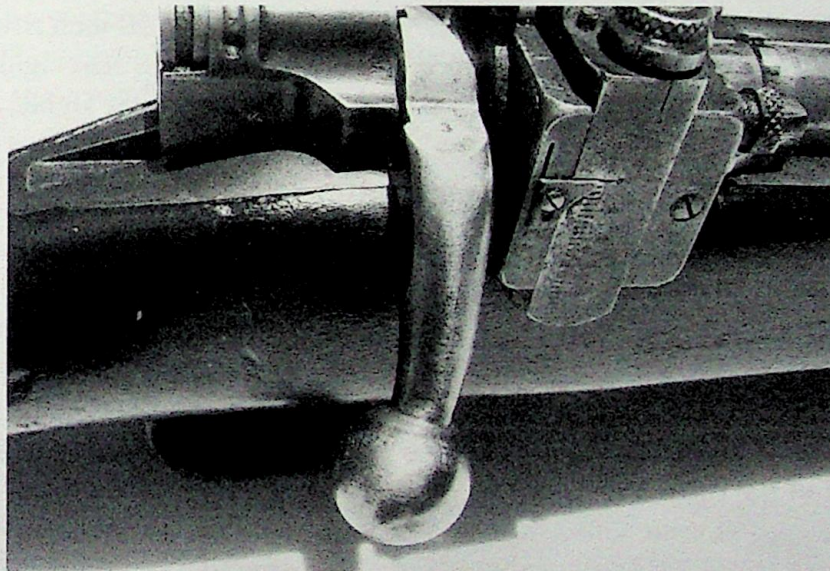


*Model 1922 Bolt Assembly*





*Model 1922 Bolt Face with Dual Firing Pins*



*Model 1922 bolt marked WL3*



### **USMC 1941 SNIPER RIFLE**

The USMC developed a special sniper rifle unique to the USMC during World War 2. They were initially made at the Broad st Armory in Philadelphia, PA. by 3 skilled armorers. More rifles and various rebuilds were used in Korea and Viet Nam.

General John D. Blanchard developed the Ordnance Maintenance data and the use of the Unertl 8 power telescope and mounts for use on selected 1903 rifles. The Unertl data included: magnification-8X, objective 1 1/4 inch to 2 3/4 inches, exit pupil-4.2 mm, field of view at 100 yards-11 feet, luminosity-17.6, eye relief-2 1/4 inches, length-24 inches, resolution-3/32 inch, reticle angle-1/4 minute, medium cross wire with center dot, weight 24 ounces, max O.D.-1 1/2 inches, tube-3/4 inch, adjustable eye piece, 1/4 minute adjustment, and duraluminum mounts with hardened steel bases and screws.

USMC, M.C. Gregory on 4 July 1942 stated that there were 104 U.S. Caliber 30, M1903 National Match rifles at the Philadelphia depot; another 369 National Match rifles; 574 U.S. , M1903 special target rifles; for a total of 1047 rifles that could be used for the program. All of the rifles had polished bright bolts. *Editor's note. Special target rifles were available from 1922 through 1929. This area of production and the later National Match rifles show that the serial numbers are very wide and not confined to any number group.. Observations show that collectors have found that there were low number sniper rifles as well as rifles that were already drilled and tapped for scope mounts. All mount blocks for Unertl scopes were 7.2 inches center to center and the early Winchester scopes used a 6 inch*

*spacing. It has not been recorded if 6 inch spacing was used by adding another set of holes to make the 7.2 inch spacing. As far as is known, the USMC snipers had the bolt blued, a new C stock installed, a modified hand guard installed, and a complete mounting system and USMC Sniper scope installed. These rifles have had many controversies along the years as they were found obsolete; recalled when sniper rifles were in short supply; and modified . The use of a mark similar to a pin punch has never been documented and rifles with existing scope mounts and drilling would not have had a mark.*

The Winchester Company had their stock of 30 caliber rifles frozen. There were 1666 24 inch rifles, 173 24 inch with 48WJS rear sights, 31 20 inch rifles, 27 20 inch rifles with 48WJS rear sights, 4 20 inch rifles with 57W rear sights, and 43 24 inch rifles with 47 W rear sights offered to the USMC on 20 July 1942. It appears that this rifle was also used in WW2, Korea, and Viet Nam.

On 7 July 1941, a memorandum was sent stating that 20 Unertl Snipers be procured for initial use and orientation. It further stated that the mating of the 22 caliber rifles with the Unertl scope would make possible effective instruction in precision shooting. The designer of the Unertl Sniper built a model and offered to bring it to Quantico at no charge . This memo was signed by Captain George O Van Orden, USMC.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Division at Cape Gloucester was able

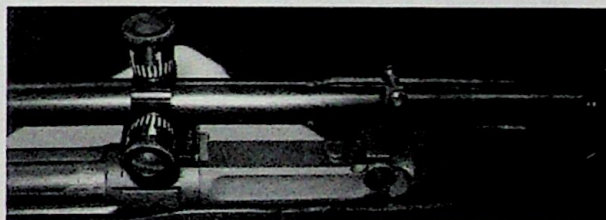
***U.S. Martial Arms Collector 127-18***



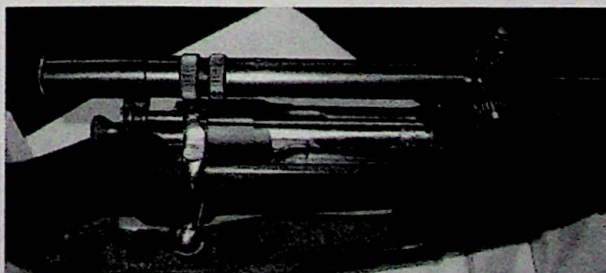
to use effectively scope-fitted rifles because of climate and terrain. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division at Saipan used scope-fitted rifles very effectively. (July 9, 1941 a document was signed by R. Tompkins and endorsed by B. Puryear Jr. Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia.).

On March 31, 1942, Headquarters USMC stated that Winchester, Model 70 Rifles equipped with Unertl Sniper scopes are not available. The first Raider Battalion submitted a requisition for 40 30-06 rifles equipped Lyman 5A telescopes. This data and many other memos were made in the attempt to make and issue sniper rifles. It adds to some confusion as to the best approach to a war-time requirement and decisions to standardize a weapon and scope. On July 10, 1942, caliber 30 Snipers Equipment was held in store pending instructions while a great need was expressed for sniper rifles, formal training, and standardization. It appears that the Winchester model 70 was used but also found to be inefficient because of a lack of spare parts and other military specifications. The Model 1903 rifle with Unertl Sniper 8x rifle was used and also found to be inadequate. The reason usually was that a new M1 rifle with a more rugged scope and easy capability to take on and off the rifle was being developed. However the M1903 rifle and the Unertl sniper scope was retained, used for target shooting and re-entered use in both Korea and Viet Nam. There have been observations of 1903A4 rifles with Unertl Sniper scopes in Korea. The use of M2 22 caliber training use and mine hunting by the Navy have also been known.

There have been many instances of 1941 snipers showing up with a different hand guard that may be attributed to those made or updated for target shooting. There are Unertl sniper scopes in various magnification other the 8X. There are data that confirms that John Unertl modified them for individuals and the USMC shooting teams at a later time for target shooting. The other main issue is that M1903 sniper rifles were shipped and stored without a scope. Unertl scopes were packed and shipped in separate cases. The odds of finding the original scope with the original rifle is very remote and there were many instances of individual sales at the same USMC facility. The rifle was sold at one part of the line and a scope was sold at another space in the same building. The result is the bill of sale at the same time and place but not as a fully assembled unit.



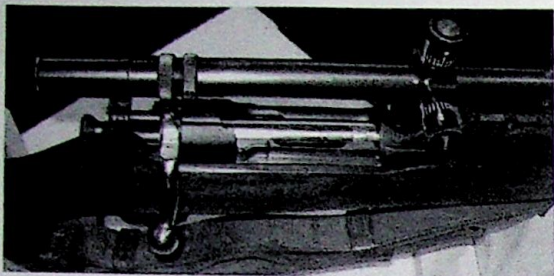
USMC SNIPER HAND GUARD



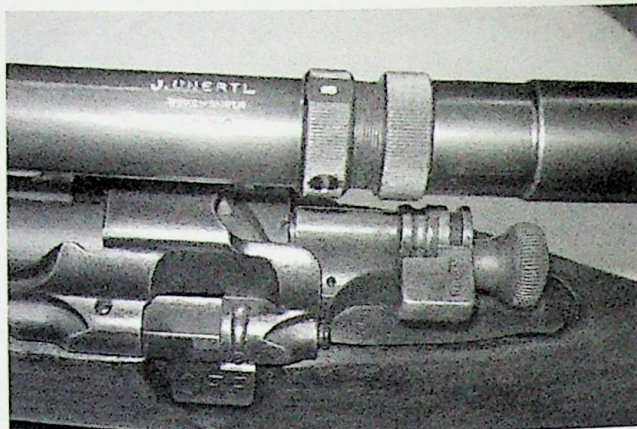
SNIPER 1.49 million number

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 127-19*

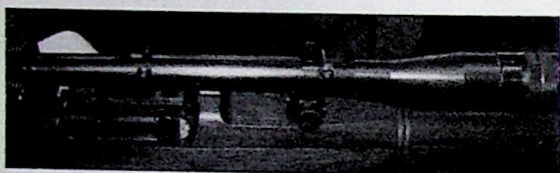




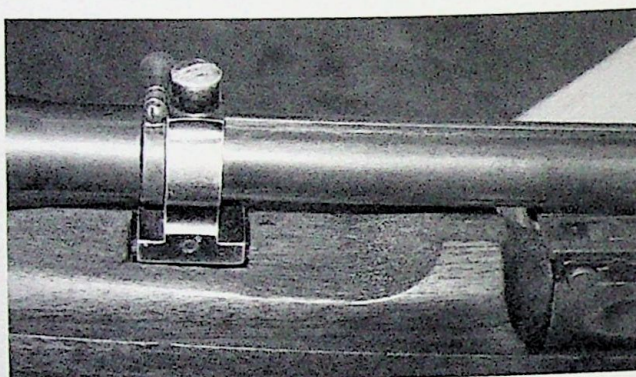
USMC Sniper with NS bolt.



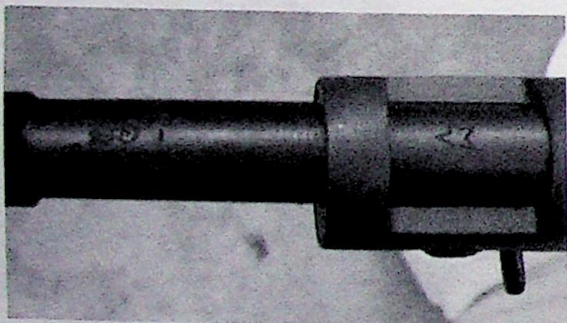
Another USMC sniper.



USMC UNERTL scope and mounts.



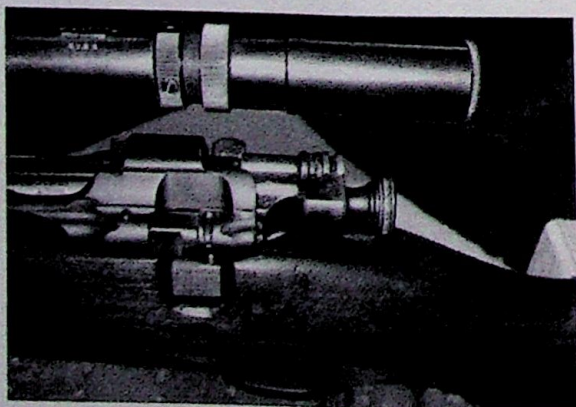
USMC hand guard.



Large star gage mark 1939.

Photos Courtesy of Rick Thornley.

Because of the large amount of data associated with these weapons, SRS will follow up with one or two more articles on the USMC Sniper rifles. We expect to print more photos and data in the next issue. If there is more data, there may be a requirement to run several issues on this subject. SRS has extensive data on other snipers including the 1903A4 and several other 1903 snipers.



SA SPG cartouche.



# A Tribute to the Life and Works of

## Clark S. Campbell

(1923 – 2011)

*By William R. Hansen*

It is with a great sense of loss that shooters and collectors of the Springfield Model 1903 say goodbye to Clark S. Campbell. This long-time revered and respected author retired peacefully from mortality on April 9, 2011 at his home in Lexington, Virginia. Driven by a profound love for history and the '03, Clark is credited with having dedicated more than 50 years of his spare time to scholarship and affection for this venerable old war rifle. His prodigious and pioneering effort was often sacrificial, and we the beneficiaries are eternally grateful.

Clark Campbell's "Army Brat" entry into the world as the son of a "Distinguished" shooter began on May 7, 1923. For the first 16 years of life, he lived on various Army posts, including the Canal Zone and the Philippine Islands. He began shooting at an early age with his first rifle being a "Winder Musket". It wasn't long before he discovered the Springfield M1922M1 and ultimately moved on to the M1903 service rifle. From his ROTC experience at Michigan State College, he received an appointment to West Point where he graduated in 1945 with a degree in engineering & art. From there, it was on to a military career in the infantry leading ultimately to becoming a qualified Senior Parachutist. From Ft. Benning, Georgia he went to Japan for 3 years with the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. But, his passion and skill for shooting never left him. He was an active member of the Regimental rifle team as well as the Division pistol team. He became a pistol Master. When the Korean War broke out, Lt. Campbell was shipped out. But, his military career was cut short on April 29, 1951 while commanding Company G of the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. Clark was seriously wounded in action from an exploding missile. The knee-leg wound would retire him from the Army on permanent disability. From there it was onto a civilian life, his marriage and raising a family.



Lt. Clark S. Campbell



Lt. C. S. Campbell-Ft. Benning

While working for the Westinghouse Corporation, Clark's fascination with competition shooting and the M1903 never wavered. Now decommissioned, this WWI era rifle was being sold by the thousands to WWII and Korea veterans for hunting, target and other sporting uses. With an engineer's curiosity, he found himself frustrated by the lack of contemporary published works dealing with ammo development and shooting tips, as well as conversion of the M1903 platform into more practical civilian uses. He'd read everything he could get his hands on, including Crossman and Hatcher's marvelous works. There simply was no single repository dedicated to comprehensive coverage of the rifle covering design evolution history, collectability, as well as modern day applications. A new author was about to be birthed.

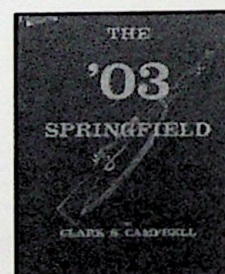
Among plentiful aptitudes, Clark was incredibly gifted with line-drawing skills as a draftsman. Upon reading the works of Maj. James Hicks on U.S. Firearms, he became inspired to put his own gifts to work upon noting the incomparable artwork illustrations from the pen of Andre Jandot. But, his rendezvous with destiny was sealed



upon running into an old friend, Col. Charles E. Sepfonds one day at the Walter Lee Hospital while dealing with some residual war wound issues. Sepfonds not only introduced him to Ordnance archival material that was to lead him into every nook and cranny in search of '03 technical information and history, but to retired Col. W.L. Clay, who was then working for the Remington Arms Company. The opportunity to apply his engineering skill on behalf of a gun manufacturer was something he couldn't resist. So, he left Westinghouse to become an arms research & design engineer with Remington at their Ilion, NY plant. Along with a significant contribution to design of the Model 725, he acquired patents for certain trigger and sear components. Moreover, his growth experience at Remington translated into renewed zeal to find the time to immerse himself in writing his book.

Clark Campbell's first book was finally published in 1957 and was successful from the get-go, in spite of many stalwart old-timers telling him such a book would never sell. But, they were wrong. Along with an emerging collector community, new after-market commercial products were showing up to transform the '03 into something more elegant and useful. Clark's book was a timely arrival on the scene. Upon learning of their new author-engineer, Remington's Plant Manager informed Clark one day that the holding period for their war records was ending and perhaps Clark might want to view them before permanent disposal. Clark jumped at the opportunity even though exhausted by his now completed writing efforts. Without the availability of modern day Xerox capability, Clark spent countless hours in Doug Miller's office pouring over war records of Remington's manufacture of the M1903 and variants. But, he was more concerned with updating and correcting facts to his recent book than collecting trivia, so he glossed over a lot of material information that he was to eventually regret not obtaining. As he advised this author some years ago, *"I simply had no idea at the time that connoisseurs of the Remington-made M1903 would be clamoring for the level of detail they are today"*. Besides he was in no hurry at the time to update or rewrite his book. Indeed, what he was able to salvage from the files ended up waiting for his 1971 book update, 14 years later.

After the 1971 update and subsequent re-printings in 1978 and 1981, Clark was to update his book again in 1994 before his last effort in 2003. Meanwhile, Clark had left Remington and went to work for the General Electric Corporation as a research engineer and designer. Along the way he had become a registered Professional Engineer. In order to keep his family from the multiple moves he had to make as a young boy, Clark retired from GE after 11 years and worked for different companies in the family's home vicinity in Virginia, including the U.S. Army Foreign Science Technical Center in Charlottesville. He also took a tour teaching school at a local community college instructing drawing, surveying and other engineering related subjects. But, he never lost his passion for shooting, and in 1979 finally achieved a life-long goal of becoming a *"Distinguished"* pistol shooter with the .45 automatic. It is also interesting to note that Clark never became an avid collector of the M1903. While he owned a number of them, they were to fulfill his shooting interests ...not sit in a safe or closet. Nevertheless, because of his vision for the future, his books today are probably more sought after by the collector than the shooter, especially since the '03 has become more valuable as an artifact than in the game-field.



Clark's 1957 Book

Clark will be sorely missed. He always made himself available to talk guns and shooting to anyone likeminded. This author along with thousands of others extend Heaven's welcoming acceptance of Clark S. Campbell to the glorious hereafter he deserved. His beloved wife Virginia ("Ginny"), mother of his children and life-long helpmate predeceased Clark in December 2005. He is survived by his two sons Jim and Mark; daughter Kathryn and 5 grandchildren. God grant you an enviable rest, my friend.....





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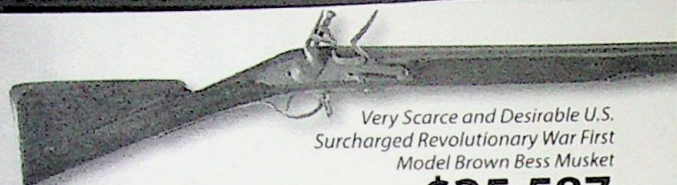
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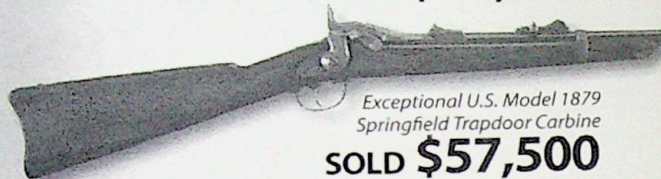
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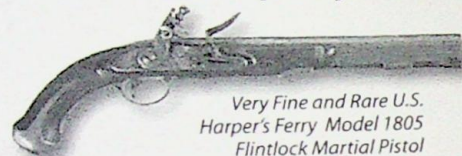
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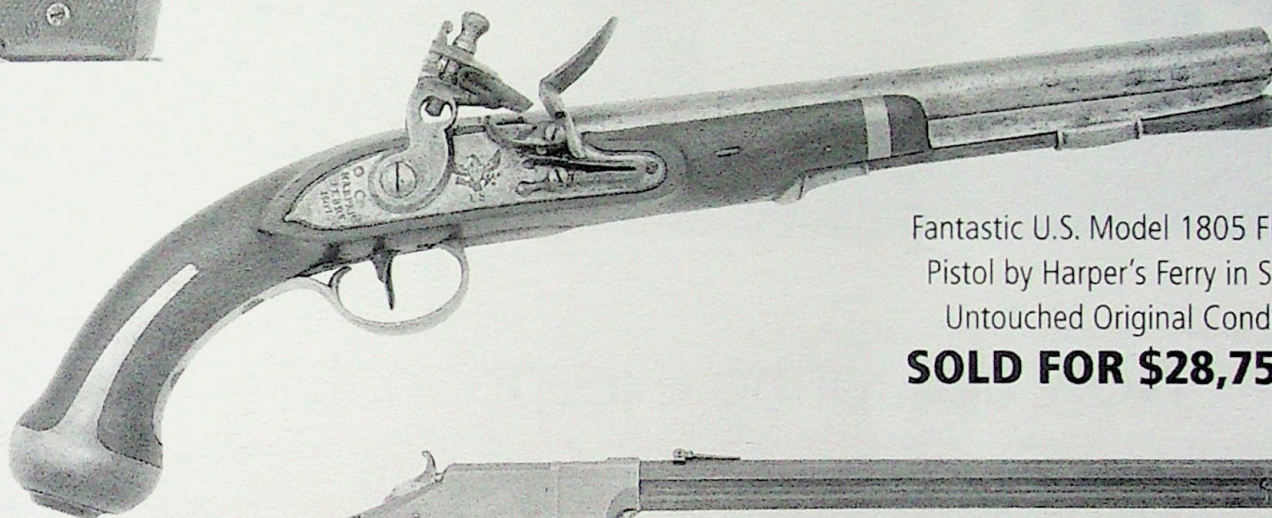
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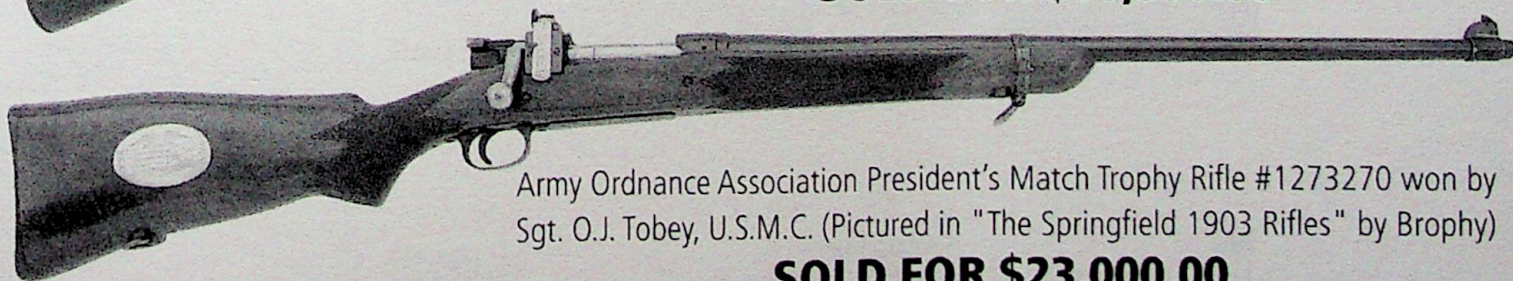
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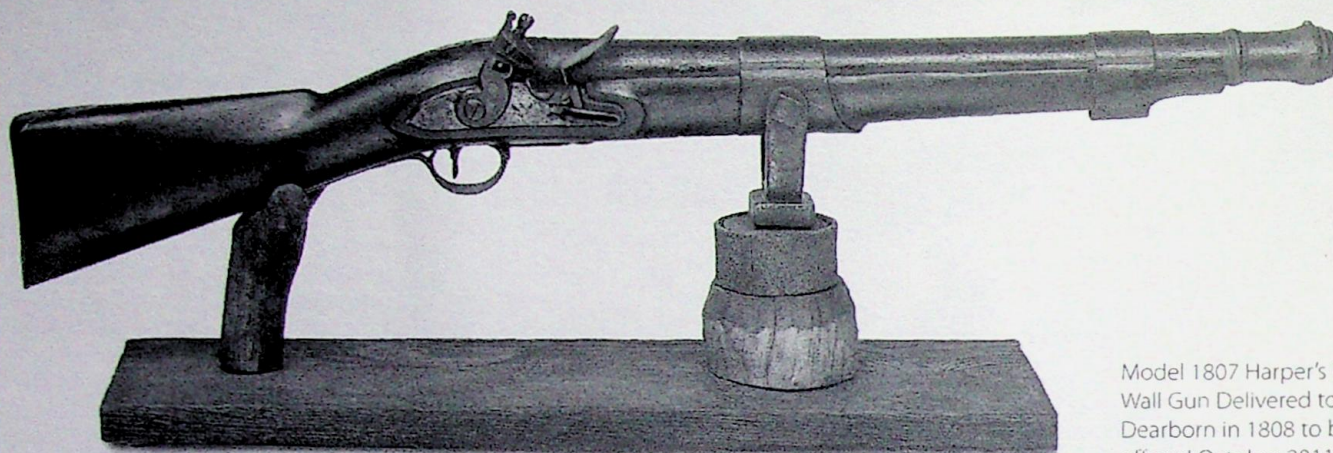
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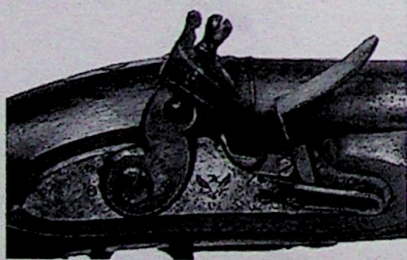


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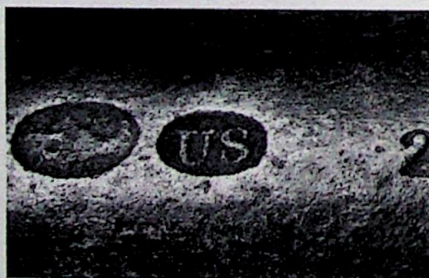


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