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**MARTIAL ARMS**  
**Collector**

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



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Number 135 June 2013

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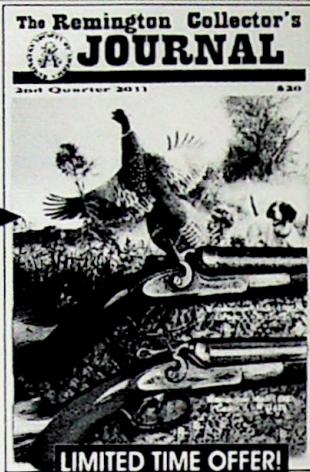
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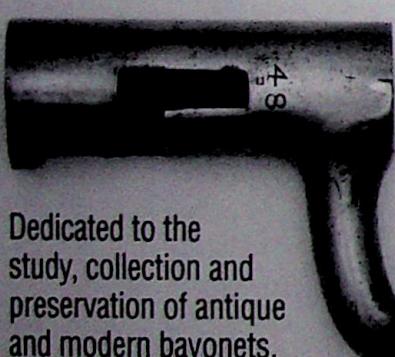
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# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

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

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

E-Mail: [editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com)  
Web site: [usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com)

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

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Cover: Model 1892 Krag Rifle.

*And  
Springfield  
Research Service  
Newsletter*

Number 135

June 2013

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## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The collecting market is still very active with many old collections and individual pieces coming up for auction and arriving at gun shows.

Many dealers are concerned that they cannot get prime weapons for their stock, and any quality item at a show is selling quickly. The prices for excellent and quality items are at a near all-time high, with many customers seeking American and European weapons. The auction houses are still getting record sales for all types of weapons, but many are being sold at the expense of the gun show sales. There is a great influence in the buyers market as they can look at many weapons from their computer and catalogues without travel and other expenses and time. The reference material is extremely easy to find in books, old catalogues, and general writings. This also extended to past single items that were known in the past and are now for sale.

There are great amounts of discussions between collectors and dealers and older collectors who have unique quality items that are of interest. As usual, there is a great demand for quality items at high market prices. The market is quite a bit weaker for the average or common items in good condition.

Various factors are now affecting many areas of collecting. The anniversary of the First World War in 1914 is driving up the interest in WW I items and specifically the 1903 Springfield in all variations. An excellent example in prime condition is now at very high values and demand. The 1903 Springfield WW I sniper rifles are very much sought after, as well as accoutrements and other items. It appears that this will continue. The Springfields that were rebuilt for World

War II from early rifles bring a small fraction of the price of an original with correct stocks, metal finish, and all assemblies as made during the WW I period. This is also true for Krags and other Springfield items. It seems that there is another area that is somewhat lower in demand at this time.

The early muskets are lower than in the past, and many go unsold at gun shows and auctions. This is especially true for the lower grades with replaced parts and alterations. The higher quality guns do sell at premium prices. This is also true for any unique or very rare models.

There are other areas that affect price and demand. The new communications and internet are very active and include the latest technical achievement in social media. There is a faltering number of standard print materials at all levels. Many old-line newspapers are struggling as are many newsletters and common mail items. The age of the internet and its associated equipment is with us and this will affect our collecting.

The quick and almost instant communications allows someone to buy or sell at will. One cannot wait for mail or phone calls in many cases. The ability to cross check a historical item is fast and can affect any price or level of demand. There are many small computer communications that give the savvy technical types the ability to search a specific weapon and its sales history. It also allows some to look at the condition years ago and determine if any changes have been made recently.

At Springfield Research Service, we can look at many military units to see which weapons were used in some histories and battles. It is

also possible to review old sales literature and auction catalogues to research previous items that were hard to acquire data on in recent years. This also includes data on technical services, old drawings, and military upgrades. This is now a challenging area that all interested parties should examine concerning rare and expensive items. There are always exceptions to any data that should be considered.

We have found many items with data on extra work done at Springfield Armory, that was done on a custom basis and unknown to many collectors. There are many weapons that are changed, modified and degraded by rumors and lack of data. Many fine weapons have been changed back to a supposed standard or issue configuration from their original configuration. They may suffer from the actual value of a rare piece.

## **GUN SHOWS**

There appears to be a never-ending list of new or newly promoted shows in all areas of the country. In contrast, many shows are getting smaller or becoming victims of non-weapon products. Recent shows also provide an area to visit for non-gun collectors who spend the day or hours in a visit. They are usually not buyers of many gun related products but also buy other items and food and beverages at the show. They do provide income from admissions and support many clubs or associations. Things are changing.

We now see major lines to purchase ammunition of all types and many military weapons. The prices are escalating and include standard 22 semi automatic rifles and shotguns. There is no doubt that gun stores and gun shows are selling record amounts of ammunition and defense types of weapons. There is a major increase in handgun sales as well. It seems that self protection is an issue.

Many stores have empty shelves for modern weapons, hand guns, ammunition and rifles. The standard shotguns are also included in the demand. As far as we can see, the prices are escalating for many new products and the manufacturers are running at high production rates. There are signs of some slowdowns as visiting customers at gun shows are selling guns to pay for other things. There are also many buyers going to any show to find a quality piece, and they will pay the going price.

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

We continue with our efforts to find new numbers, add new data, and find more references that can be used to research a specific weapon. We have found new data on quite a few USMC rifles in the pre World War I era that show use and military unit with a specific trooper's name. This data requires additional scrutiny to cross check and verify. Areas of interest are always in the military history area and the use of specific weapons. We have found some data on Naval and associated units, and their weapons. It is a slow process that is filed away and hopefully used to add to a history of a fine gun. We expect that we can search for more World War II records. The goal is to find more contracts for all types of weapons. We have found the data on the Harrington & Richardson 1911 pistol contract, but there is very little information on specific serial numbers and actual delivery. The search is on.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**NOTE.** Please send an email if you receive any subscription data that is incorrect. We can also answer a mailed note but it takes

longer to use the mail system rather than email. Please send any comments either way. Comments are appreciated by email especially if they give us data to solve problems and eliminate mistakes.

Issue number 135 is current and is dated June 2013.

Number 135, 136 and 137 will be sent in 2013. The projected dates are June, September, and December 2013.

## ADVERTISING

Our advertising deadlines are the Friday two weeks before the date of a publication. Our standard is March, June, September, and December for each year. Please contact us for competitive rates for full page ads and other data.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS

We are writing more letters for our subscribers. The basic letters are \$ 50.00; sales letters with a document are \$ 65.00; and research letters run from \$ 175.00 and up depending on travel and extended times to work at the Archives and other facilities. We are always behind on research letters because of long delays at government offices, government policies, and access to federal buildings. The copying of documents is always a problem and can be helped by using a camera but it is always a time factor and government approval is required. It is now appearing that the Iphone may be the answer. There may be additional costs for most early Colts used in the Civil War and by the 1st Cavalry (Spanish American War), 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and other unique units. Some cases require us to have a guard accompany us at all times from finding the document and traveling to the area for research. The system always requires an ID card with photo to be

scanned at entrance and also at different offices.

## 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

All data in the Springfield Research Service data base is based on government documents. We never use third- party comments or other non-verifiable sources. Many times letters from the manufacturing factory stating delivery of a weapons or other data will not have the specific usage or issue to a specific soldier. We are always searching and many pieces of data are missing.

We are always looking for and finding data. It will be never ending and we will try to publish new information as it is found. Our subscribers can email or send to: U.S. Martial Arms Collector, Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818.

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

This is an ongoing task and we keep as many old issues as possible.

The older newsletters (number 1 through 54) must be obtained by **special request**. Issues number 55 through 133 are available for \$ 10 each postpaid and there are several issues that have run out.

Copies can be made on request and we are exploring email delivery. 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 to subscribers only.

### **LETTERS WRITTEN DURING THIS PERIOD**

U.S. Model 1896 Carbine, Cal. 30, Krag, serial number 27942, Issued To: Troop F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, The United States Army. Carbine identified as Model 1896 shipped from the Cavalry unit to Springfield Armory. Date: July 14, 1900. The carbine was shipped to be cleaned and repaired (C&R). The standard practice was to ship many of the weapons used in the War of 1898 for (C&R) which resulted in making the weapon into new condition, and with updated modifications for the time. The 2nd cavalry was enacted into service for 2 years during the War of 1898.

U.S. Model 1922M1 Rifle, Cal. 22, M 1922M1, Parkerized. serial number 12 155, Sold To: Western Cartridge Company, East Alton, IL. Date: June 2, 1931

U.S. 1903 COLT Automatic, Caliber .32. Pistol, serial number 571358. Issued to Major General H. N. Schwarzkopf (SCHWARZKOPF H N MG) August 8, 1956.

U.S. Model 1903 Rifle, Cal. 30, U.S. Sporting Model, serial number 1 285 544, Sold To: D. E. Moore, Chicago, IL. Date: September 18, 1928.

U.S. Model 1860 Colt Revolver U.S. Army serial number 48111. Issued To: Company H, 2<sup>nd</sup> West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry in 1863.

U.S. Model 1903 Rifle, Cal. 30, serial number 1 232 400, U.S. National Match, Serial Number 1 232 400. Sold To: J. B. Gatliff, Jr., Williamsburg, KY. Date: August 20, 1928.

### **LETTERS AND EMAILS ASKED AND ANSWERED**

Dear Sir: I would like to be provided with a verification of the existence of an Serial Number in your Data base. I do not want to know any specifics concerning this SN at this time. I only want to know if you have this serial number in your database. If you do, I will be contacting at a later date for specifics. It is 5924 and it is on a Remington "Old Army" cap and ball pistol. This number is stamped on the frame under the grips and on the loading lever.

*We provide serial number look ups for our subscribers. There is no charge if you send one serial number at a time. Editor.*

I am a new subscriber to your periodical. I have a Custer era carbine serial no 39004. Do you have any info on it? Thanks,

*We have no data on that serial number. The closest number is 39002 (this weapon was in Springfield Armory Museum). There are no serial numbers near that area for 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry guns. Editor.*

Do you have any information on Colt 1860 Army Serial No. 8324.

*We do not have any information on that serial number. We found number 8208 and 8481 that were issued to cavalry units, but no data on your gun. Editor*

I talked to you the other day about my Henry Rifle serial # 6968. The only thing I have found through books is that it was made in Nov. of 1864. I would appreciate any information you could tell me about it. You also mentioned a news letter that you put out. Could you tell me how I can get it. Thank you,

*We searched our records and have no data on that number. There seems to be no data in the 6900 range for Union issued Henrys. Editor.*

I was wondering if you have any info on a 1860 patent Spencer Rifle #104500. What units might have used this in the Civil War. Did any of Bufords cavalry carry the Spencer rifle. If you don't have any info how might I track this down.

*We have no records in the 104 thousand range. There was one entry in the government records in the 102 thousand range. This may be a very hard serial number to verify and find. We have no other way to check on the high numbers.*

*Editor.*

I'm one of the winners in the exhibit categories from the recent history fair up at MSSU in Joplin. I'm doing my project on the Marshall Plan and I was wondering if you would be able to suggest some web sites or people that I could contact that would have some good primary materials and possibly

artifacts. Would you know of any museums that I could also contact and see if they could loan me any of these things? Would you know of any veterans of WWII, in our area, that may have helped with the Marshall Plan? Anything you send to me will be helpful. Even if you could refer me to some history teachers/ historians in the area that may be able to help, that would be great. Thanks for your help!

*We do not have any capability to easily locate the data that you are working on. You may be fortunate to find data in web searches on the internet. There are records on General Marshall in the U.S. Archives in Washington D.C. You may find that it will take many hours to search records and find data. You will also be required to get a government badge and have a clear route and location for any information. Editor.*

I just purchased an M1860 Spencer carbine, has a serial number 32546 and was told your organization may be able to help identify the history of the gun. I'm planning on giving it as a birthday gift in Oct 2013. After membership, would a letter be able to be received before then. In other words, what is the average turnaround period for a letter request.

*Please refer to data sent to you. We search for our subscribers only. Thanks, Editor.*

**Editors Note:** Please send one serial number for each email. We have approximately 1000 email contacts each month and a list will be lost. Thanks.

## **U. S. Marine Corps World War 2 Sniper Rifle.**

*(The following data is a general description of some of our data in the SRS data base that shows documentation on the USMC sniper rifles and 1903 USMC rifles).*

There are many fragmented pieces of data, serial numbers, and markings on USMC Sniper rifles Model 1942.

There are quite a few documented pieces of information on the United States Marine Corps Sniper program. They do not include precise individual serial numbers of the rifles. The data that exists was directed to making the rifles, directing their work, and authority for the program. There are many comments and stories about the specifics but very few are accurately documented.

The start of the program and the initial requirements during World War II necessitated a product for a sniper rifle as fast as possible. This war effort used a retrofit program with the availability of rifles capable of sniper use and rifles in stock at the start of World War II. The overall program, directives, requirements and support data are well known and in Springfield Research Service records.

General Blanchard's documents, pamphlet, and other correspondence are very well known and distributed. The best data available is from the USMC Quartermaster's Supply 4 July 1942. The document shows the availability of selected rifles for the sniper program. These stocks of rifles were available and suitable for the initial program. They cover weapons made in prior years from the 1920's through the rifles available in 1942.

The USMC documents show the availability of **104 National Match rifles** held for the USMC Reserve Rifle team. These rifles would be of any date from the 1920's to 1942.

**369 Model 1903 National Match rifles** were available from the USMC Rifle Team with any dates from the 1920's to 1942.

**574 U.S. , cal. 30, M1903 special target rifles** held by Division, Marine Corps and Elliot Trophy Team matches were from early dates from 1930 through 1942. The program started with **1047 rifles**.

It is unknown if there were others added at later dates. It is very possible that other requirements added to demands and other rifles and actions were used in rebuilds and reserve numbers.

In **1945 the USMC had 975 Unertl scopes** in its supply. This adds to confusion as to the total number of combat ready 1903A1 sniper rifles that were made in that time period. There are further records that show that the Unertl scopes and sniper rifles had many deficiencies and that the program directed changes in equipment and authority to work on 1903A4 rifles and M1 Garand sniper rifles.

The original rifles may or may not have star gaged barrels and NM markings, but all were of a match quality. The serial numbers in precise order have not been located. It is believed that some numbers may have been logged into unit records, but the existing data directs the efforts to numbers of rifles.

Actual serial numbers were not common on shipment of completed units. It was often seen that a shipment of rifles would list only 10 rifles and 10 bayonets.

Records of manufacture indicate that the USMC sniper could have serial numbers from low numbers (below 800,000 though 1,500,000). There are no specific serial number ranges, and some rifles prior to sniper upgrades were already drilled and tapped with scope blocks. The rifles were from rifle teams that already had other rifle scopes installed. The blocks for the Unertl scopes could be used if they had the required 7.2 inch spacing and were of the proper size. Many were useable as is, and a simple change could be made for the 8X Unertl telescope. Rifles with a 6- inch spacing were made for scopes such as the Winchester A5 and Lyman models. Their corresponding sight adjustments correspond to the 6- inch spacing.

There have been observations of rifles with 3 sets of tapped holes that allowed blocks to be used for both 6 inch and 7.2 inch spacing. These are usually found on target rifles and heavy barrel international rifles. It is possible that some early rifles converted to the sniper model could have had a second set of holes drilled during the sniper program.

The available serial numbers of existing team rifles and early target rifles were known to be at the Broad Street Armory in Philadelphia during the Marine Corps building program. The rifles mainly had polished bolts that were blackened or blued for the sniper program. New C type stocks were installed and new hand guards were modified for the Unertl scope mounts. The underneath part of the hand guard had chalk markings made by

the small group of ordnance personnel on the program.

There are USMC memos that state that C stocks would be used "**IF AVAILABLE**".

This is another example of war- time use and demand to satisfy requirements that lead to misinformation in regard to exact descriptions of the program.

There are no details of any inspector cartouche on the left side, but it is presumed that the rifles had a proof P on the usual area on the grip. C stocks from other weapons that were in proper condition could have been used.

There has been no documentation on the pin punch markings that has been written about, and there were rifles with existing blocks on the rifles during conversion to the sniper model. New Unertl 8X scopes with scope serial numbers were installed. It is possible that some rifles had a mark for the block made by the drilling fixture, but this has never been verified and there is no document stating this procedure.

The butt plate was the National Match course checkered model with butt plate trap for tools. The use of the sniper rifle was very broad and varied. At a later time many were used for Marine target use with other scopes and refurbished scopes in higher magnification.

Hand guards were seen with the WWII variation of the straight rear sight adjustment cut, as well as the early

Springfield round adjustment cut. The different hand guards encountered with a different contour for the rear scope block were used on Marine target model rifles. The originals were cut with metal cutting equipment and are quite accurate and had excellent workmanship. There have been many observations of these rifles but an original issue rifle is very rare.

The normal procedure was that shipment and storage of sniper models had the rifle in separate areas and shipping containers, and scopes with mounts in another area with their own shipping box. This procedure would make an original 1942 USMC with a scope that was original to the gun almost impossible. Sniper rifles can be found with the correct Unertl scope of the time, but there are no documents that have the original gun with the original scope by serial number.

The USMC program was started and later stopped in World War II. The reasons cited included comments that the scopes were easily damaged and that there were other programs to get a more durable and standardized sniper rifle. The 1903A4 was listed several times as well as new developments for the M1 Garand. There were subsequent uses of the rifles for later combat requirements in Korea, international conflicts, and special operations. Many rifles were later used in rifle matches and sold as surplus.

Model 1922 22 caliber rifles in various models were also made with USMC Unertl scopes for naval mine shooting and sniper training. Rifles brought back from Korea have been observed using 1903A4 rifles with

8X USMC scopes.

There is no doubt that the United States Marine Corps made a concentrated effort to start a major sniper program and to utilize current weapons. The USMC started using many commercial scopes to test the systems for durability and operational use. Winchester model 70 rifles were also tested, and many were used for other sniper programs throughout the later years.

It is recommended that a very thorough examination of any rifle be made if you are contemplating a purchase of this type of weapon. It is also recommended that the examination of data be made to ensure that a rifle is one of the originals. There is a big demand for USMC sniper equipment, and many rifles have been offered on the market. A rifle made for other USMC or military use is a possibility, and a rifle made of original spare parts is possible. It is always a disappointment to find a rifle that was made as an original changed for a special purpose or a test. These unique models are sometimes changed in an attempt to make them into a sniper that is commonly thought to be authentic. These changes may have proven to be a problem as they altered a possible original model into an altered gun.

## THE UNITED STATES REVOLUTION, A NEW ENGLAND FAMILY, AND SAMPLE WEAPONS

*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in  
the War of the Revolution, 17 Vols.*

A member of a New England family during Colonial and Revolutionary times, William White had an extraordinary history with details of enlistments and military units from 1775 through 1781 and continual details of enlistments throughout the Revolution.

Vol. 17, p 614

**White, William**, Springfield. Sergeant, in a company of Minute-men, which marched April 20, 1775, in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775, under command of Maj. Andrew Colton; service, 1 week 3 days; reported engaged in the army April 29, 1775; also, Capt. Gideon Burt's co., Col. Timothy Danielson's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775.

Engaged April 28, 1775; service, 3 mos. 11 days; also, company return dated Roxbury Camp, Oct. 6, 1775; also, [p.144] order for money in lieu of bounty coat endorsed "Dec'r 22d 1775;" also, 2d Lieutenant.

Capt. Timothy Bliss's (2d) co., 1st Hampshire Co. regt. of Mass. militia; list of officers chosen by the several companies in said regiment, as returned by Charles Pyncheon, dated Springfield, May 21, 1776; ordered in Council June 13, 1776, that said officers be commissioned with the exception of officers of the 12th co.

Reported commissioned June 13, 1776; also, Adjutant, Col. Brooks's regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1777, to Dec. 31, 1779; also, order on the Board of War, dated Cherry Valley, Dec. 13, 1778, signed by said White, Adjutant, and others, officers of (late) Col. Alden's regt., for

clothing due them as a donation from the State, to be delivered to Lieut. James Lunt; receipt for said clothing, dated Boston, Dec. 31 [1778], signed by Lieut. James Lunt; also, Adjutant, 6th Mass. regt. formerly commanded by Col. Ichabod Alden; return of field, staff, and commissioned officers who were in camp on or before Aug. 15, 1777, and who had not been absent subsequently except on furlough, etc., certified at Cherry Valley, Feb. 24, 1779; also, Lieutenant, Capt. Luke Day's (3d) co., 6th Mass. regt. formerly commanded by Col. Ichabod Alden; muster roll of field, staff, and commissioned officers for March and April, 1779, certified at Cherry Valley; said White is also carried on roll as Adjutant of the regiment; appointed Adjutant Jan. 1777.

Appointed Lieutenant Oct. 1, 1778; reported on command at Boston; also, return giving names and ranks of officers belonging to 7th Mass. regt. commanded by Lieut. Col. Brooks, endorsed "Nov. 11, 1779;" said White returned as 1st Lieutenant [probably 8th co.]; also, Lieutenant, Col. Brooks's (late Alden's) 7th regt.; return of field, staff, and commissioned officers, made up to Dec. 31, 1779; residence, Springfield; said White is also carried on roll as Adjutant of the regiment.

Reported promoted to Captain Lieutenant June 5, 1779; also, Captain Lieutenant, Lieut. Colonel's co., Lieut. Col. John Brooks's (7th) regt.; return of officers, dated Sept. 9, 1780; reported promoted from Lieutenant Nov. 11, 1778; also, list of officers entitled to promotions in 7th Mass. regt., as returned by J. Brooks, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, dated Sept. 9, 1780; said White entitled to a Captaincy, vice Capt. Ballard; date of vacancy, July 1, 1779; ordered in Council Sept. 16, 1780.

that said officers be commissioned and that warrants be issued meanwhile; Reported commissioned under date of vacancy, July 1, 1779; also, Captain, Col. Brooks's regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1780, to Dec. 31, 1780; also, Captain, Lieut. Col. Brooks's regt.; return of commissioned officers, dated Camp Totoway, Oct. 16, 1780; also, Captain, 4th co., Lieut. Col. Brooks's regt.; muster roll of field, staff, and commissioned officers for Oct., Nov., and Dec., 1780, dated Huts West Point; appointed July 1, 1779; reported on command at the Lines; also, same co. and regt.; returns of effectives between Jan. 5, and Jan. 26, 1781, dated West Point; reported on command at the Lines.

Also, Captain, Light Infantry co., Lieut. Col. Brooks's regt.; muster roll for Jan., 1781, dated West Point; also, Captain, 3d co., Lieut. Col. Brooks's regt.; returns of effectives, dated West Point, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, and Feb. 16, 1781; reported on command at the Lines; also, Captain, Light Infantry co., Lieut. Col. Brooks's regt.

Muster rolls of field, staff, and commissioned officers for Feb.-May, 1781, dated West Point; also, muster rolls of field, staff, and commissioned officers for June and July, 1781; reported on command with light infantry from Feb. 19, 781; also, return of effectives, dated Phillipsburgh, Aug. 2, 1781.

Reported on command at West Point; also, muster roll of field, staff, and commissioned officers for Aug., 1781; reported on command with light infantry; also, returns of effectives between Sept. 7, and Nov. 2, 1781, dated West Point and Peekskill.

Reported on command with light infantry; also, muster roll of field, staff, and commissioned officers for

Oct. and Nov., 1781, dated York Huts; reported killed Nov. 13 (also given Oct. 13). 1781.



*ABOVE - French Charleville Musket from the Mauberg Arsenal. Model 1766. Used by New Hampshire unit in Revolutionary War.*



*Charleville Musket Stock Area of New Hampshire Marked musket.*



*ABOVE - British Brown Bess Musket. Used by Both Sides. This is a Very Early, Approximately 1750, Musket with a 49 Inch barrel and is 64 1/2 Inches Long.*



*LEFT SIDE - Brown Bess.*



**BRITISH BROWN BESS** -Believed to be From the Yorktown Volunteers in Great Britain. Lock Marked Ketland and Assembled in Great Britain.



*ABOVE - Brass escutcheon marked Yorktown Volunteers 1794. Possibly put on after date, for unit history in England.*



*Left side with brass side plate of Brown Bess.*

**SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1873  
TRANSITION MODEL SERIAL  
NUMBER 71751**



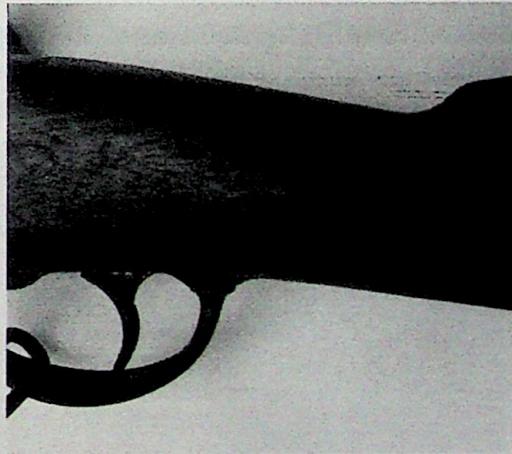
*1873 Lock Plate Serial Number 71751  
Right Side of Rifle.*



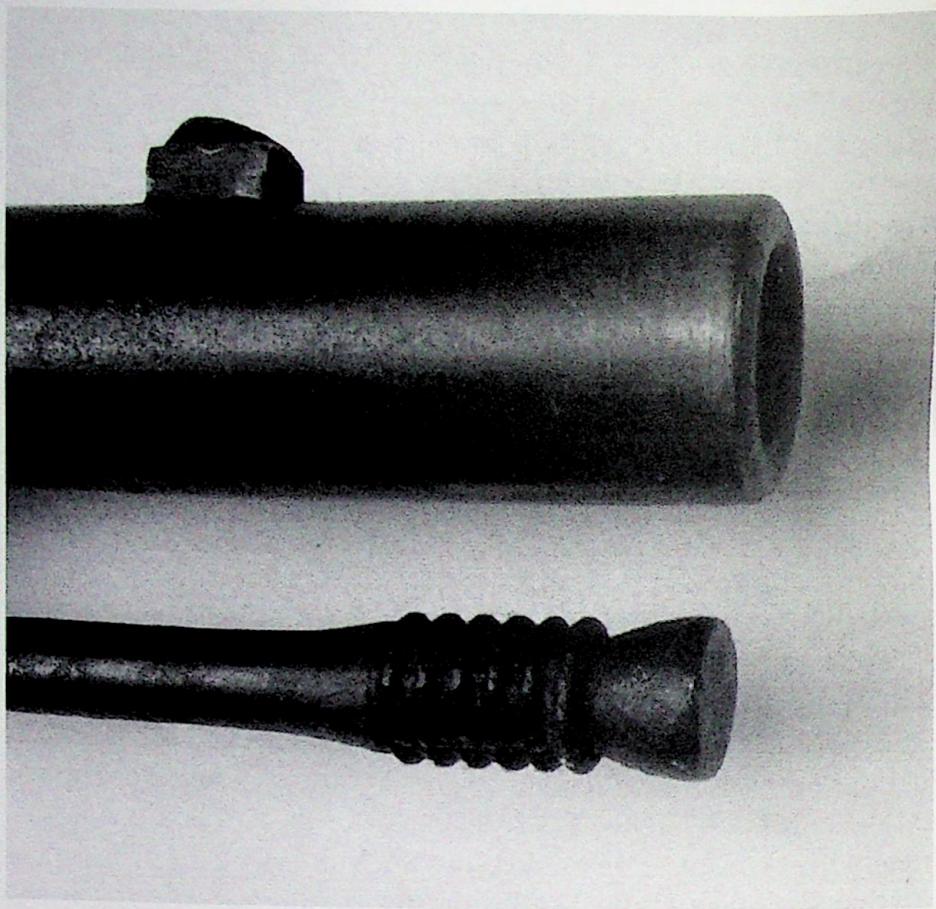
*1876 Rifle Serial number 71751 Left Side  
of Rifle with ESA Cartouche, long Wrist,  
Short Comb.*

The transition model 1873 Springfield musket number 71751 was issued to Company F, 4<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Illinois Infantry in 1898. This original 1873 was manufactured in 1876 and is still in its original configuration with 1873 dated lock plate with all original parts, in an 1876 stock with ESA cartouche in an oval. The stock has the short hand grip and long cheek piece similar to the later post 1873 model stocks. The P proof mark is standard and the inletting is correct for the heavier receiver made after 1875. The ramrod is the early 1873 model with flat tip with no cup, and the upper band has a small U with a large U on the middle band. The hammer is the later variation made after the early course checkering. The rear sight is a standard 1873 with graduations to 11 and headless screws. Butt plate and screws are early original and the breech block is an 1873 marked high arch with a steel firing pin. The front sight is solid with no pin or blade. It is marked 1873 with no crossed arrows near the date. The serial number has been found in the United States Archives as having been issued for the Spanish American War. No data, so far, has been found on the original issue in 1876 and any use by the military until the War of 1898. It is very rare to find a 45/70 musket in its original configuration that avoided the modifications that the military made from 1876 through 1898. All 1873 rifles and carbines with serial numbers under 50,000 were supposedly scrapped. The 1876 manufactured muskets were started at about serial number 60,000. They were followed by the 1877 at about serial number 74,000. These muskets in the 60,000 to 74,000 range that escaped modifications and sight changes are seldom encountered, let alone issued in an early time and reissued in 1898. One of the more interesting aspects of the Trap Door rifles in transition in 1876 was the weapons used in

the field and saw battle service in our "Indian Wars" and other hostilities. The Army and the War Department desired to upgrade field deficiencies found by actual failures of weapons, and first hand accounts of many battle encounters by cavalry and infantry personnel. The initial service of 1873 models saw many problems concerning the stocks, barrels and receivers as well as other parts. Several Army boards sought to enhance and upgrade the model 1873 into a more efficient weapon. History of the U. S. Springfield Arsenal and other government agencies found that designs, metal, manufacture, and maintenance were issues that needed attention and quite a few efforts were made to upgrade the standard weapons to a more suitable combat arm.

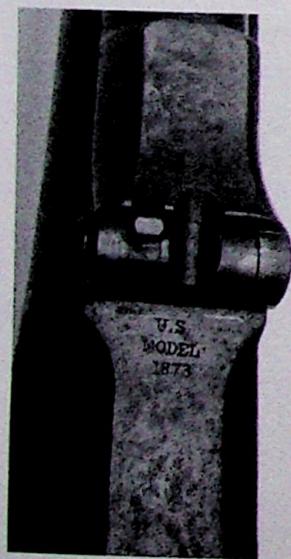


*1876 Transition Long Wrist 1873 Short Comb.*

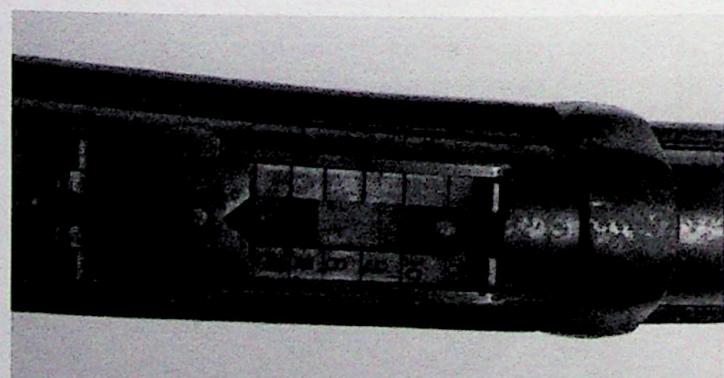


*TOP-*

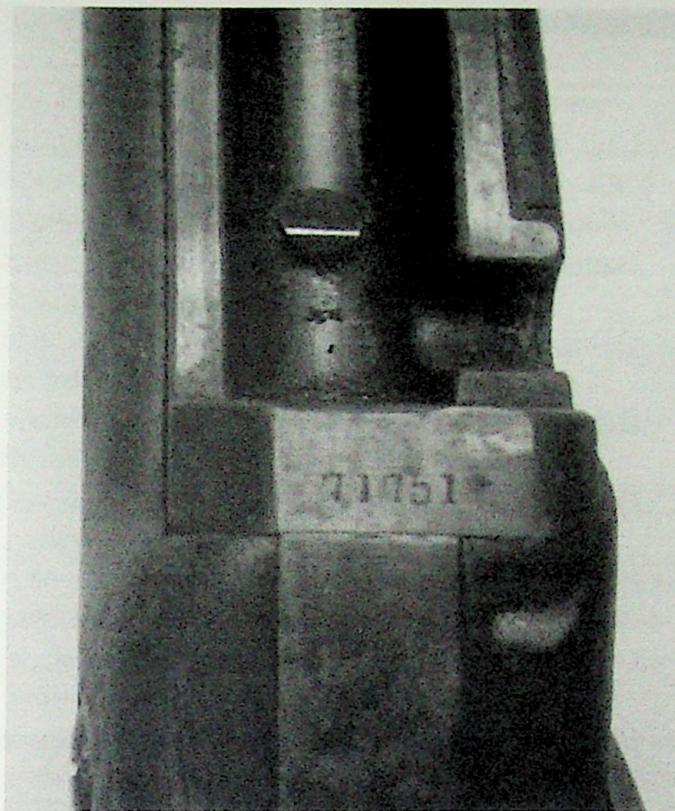
*1876 Solid Front Sight, Solid Ram Rod and, Muzzle.*



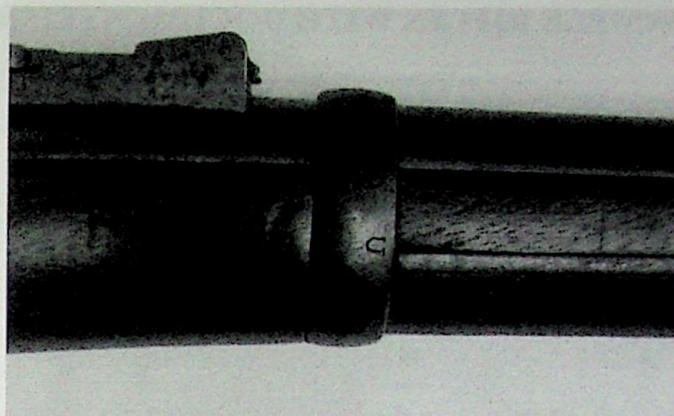
*Left Breech block Dated 1873.*



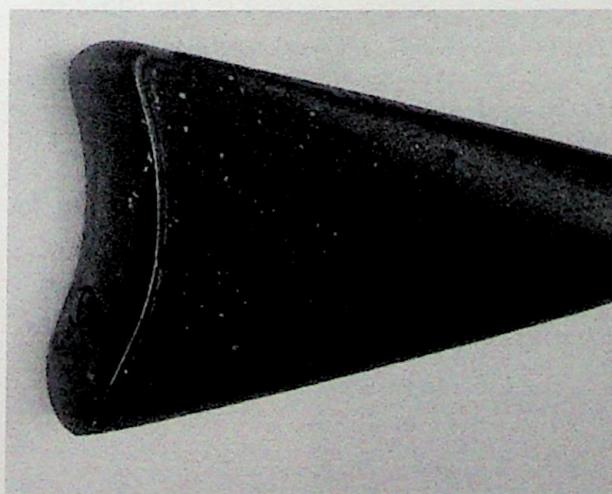
*Bottom Right 1873 Rear Sight  
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 135-16*



*Top Left 1876 Serial Number 71751.*



*Top Right 1876 Lower Band Large U.*



*Bottom Left 1876 Butt Plate.*

#### **SPRINGFIELD 45/70 SAMPLES MADE IN 1876**

The following table is an example of 10 Model 1873 rifles made in 1876. The data shows different models reflecting arsenal changes to weapons at the time of the data. As noted most rifles reflect the changes of the date and 1877 was still listed as a model 1873. This was usually changed over the years. An original condition as made is very rare. Number 71289 still survived in 1881 as a 73 model where number 71299 was listed as a model 1884 and as such would have all of the current improvements. These rifle were all issued in the time of "The American Hostilities in the West", and could have seen quite a few battles and active combat.

## SAMPLE RIFLES WITH DOCUMENTED HISTORY USED IN ANALYSIS.

Serial Number	Type	Date	Unit Weapon Assigned
71251	73 Rifle	Feb 15, 1877	Battery L, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery
71260	84 Rifle	1898	Company F 4 <sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry
71278	73 Rifle	Feb 15, 1877	Battery L 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery
71280	73 Rifle	Feb 15, 1877	Battery L 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery
71289	73 Rifle	Jan 9, 1877	Battery F 1 <sup>st</sup> Artillery
71291	84 Rifle	1898	Company F 4 <sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry
71295	73 Rifle	Feb 15, 1877	Battery L 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery
71299	84 Rifle	1898	Company F 4 <sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry
71363	73 Rifle	Feb 15, 1877	Battery L 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery
71366	73 Rifle	Feb 15, 1877	Battery L 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery

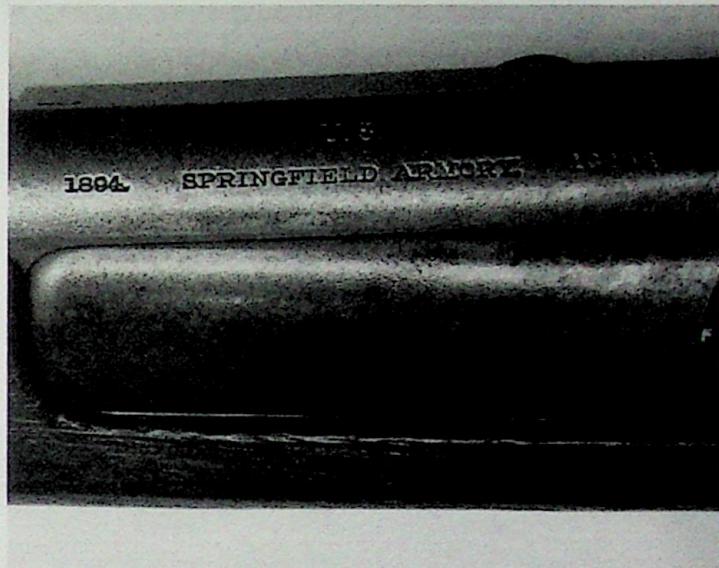
***Editor's Notes:*** Most of the Springfield 45/70 Rifles in our analysis were issued to the State of Illinois in various units. It is a rare exception that an original 1873 rifle stayed in its original configuration in the years that it was assigned to a military unit. The rifle cited, 71751 was manufactured in 1876 by Springfield Armory and survived in the 1876 configuration through its issue to a soldier in Company F 4<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Illinois Infantry for the War of 1898. Several searches were made to locate other data and it has not been found. Almost all data shows that 73 rifles were upgraded at several different times and there were directives sent to all Army units concerning changes to many parts allowing rifles to be in a Model 1898 standard. There are no documentation on this rifle and its history from 1876 and the Western conflicts with army units in the United States, or in any other part of the world.

## MODEL 1892 RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER 13464

On October 4, 1892, the Chief of Ordnance directed the Commanding Officer of the Springfield Armory to make preparations for the manufacture of "the magazine rifle lately adopted for the United States service."

Springfield described the basic characteristics of the rifle, "a caliber of .30 is recommended for the trial arm", and the board further decided that the cartridge be the same exterior form and dimensions as that used in the tests, which resulted in the system represented by the Krag-Jorgensen rifle No. 5 being selected for trial. All service rifles were caliber 30/40, also known as .30 caliber government. Test models were made in 1892 and 1893. They were single shot prototypes in .30 caliber using 36 to 40 grains of black powder. Many rifles that were sold as surplus are still in active hunting activities in the United States.

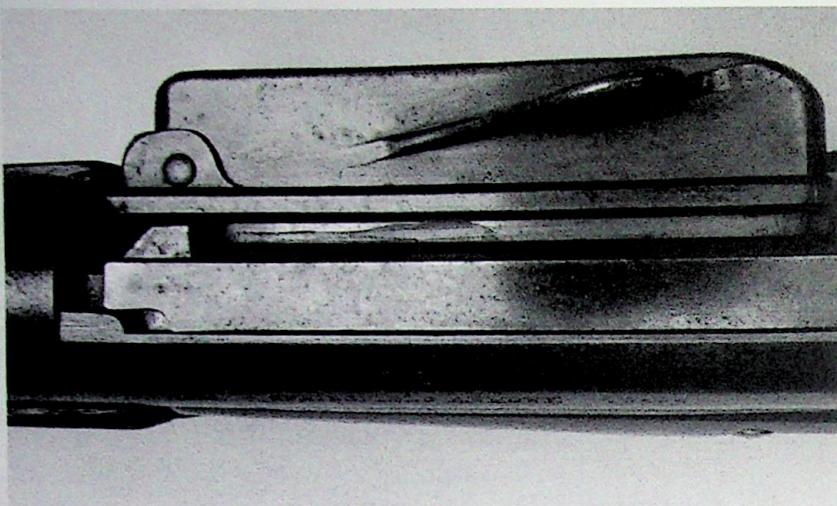
The specific rifle shown is serial number 13464 and was manufactured by Springfield Armory in 1895. *Lt. Col. William Mook collection.*



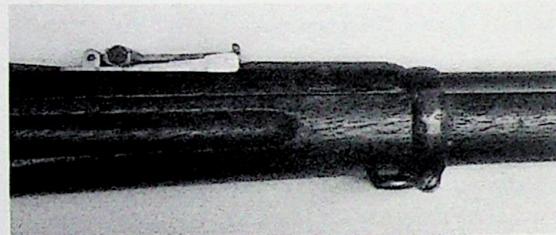
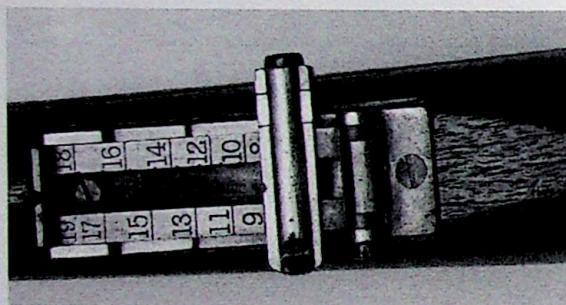
ABOVE- 1894 Model Date with serial number 13464.



Right Side of 1894 rifle with unique 1894 Bolt, Cocking piece, Magazine, and Extractor.

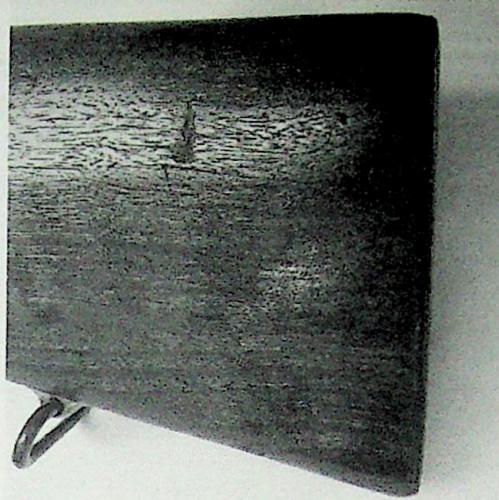


1894 Krag with flat top extractor and 1894 Contour Magazine Box.

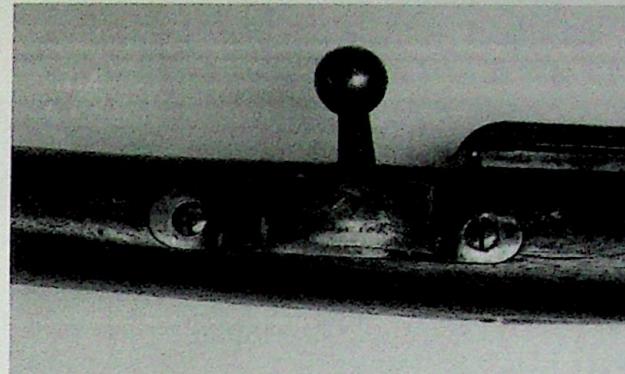


1894 Krag with top view of rear sight with elevation adjustments from 700 to 1800 yards on the top slide and 300 to 600 yards steps on the left side. All graduations are in 100 yards with no adjustment for windage. Rifles had a 30- inch barrel. This sight was replaced by the 1896 sight designed by Lt. T.C. Dickson. The later 1896 Carbine had another sight graduated for the shorter 22 inch barrel.

The Krag rifle was chambered for the 30/40 Krag with a 220 grain bullet. It was unique for the Krag action that operated with a rotary magazine that worked well with that cartridge. Other attempts at other chambering were unsuccessful. The cartridge was also found to be lower in power during the War of 1898 and a new variation with 2200 FPS velocity was made. This required new sights and major ammunition manufacture. The results proved quite bad as many bolts and receivers could not handle the higher pressure. The Army returned to the older ammunition, and great quantities were reloaded.

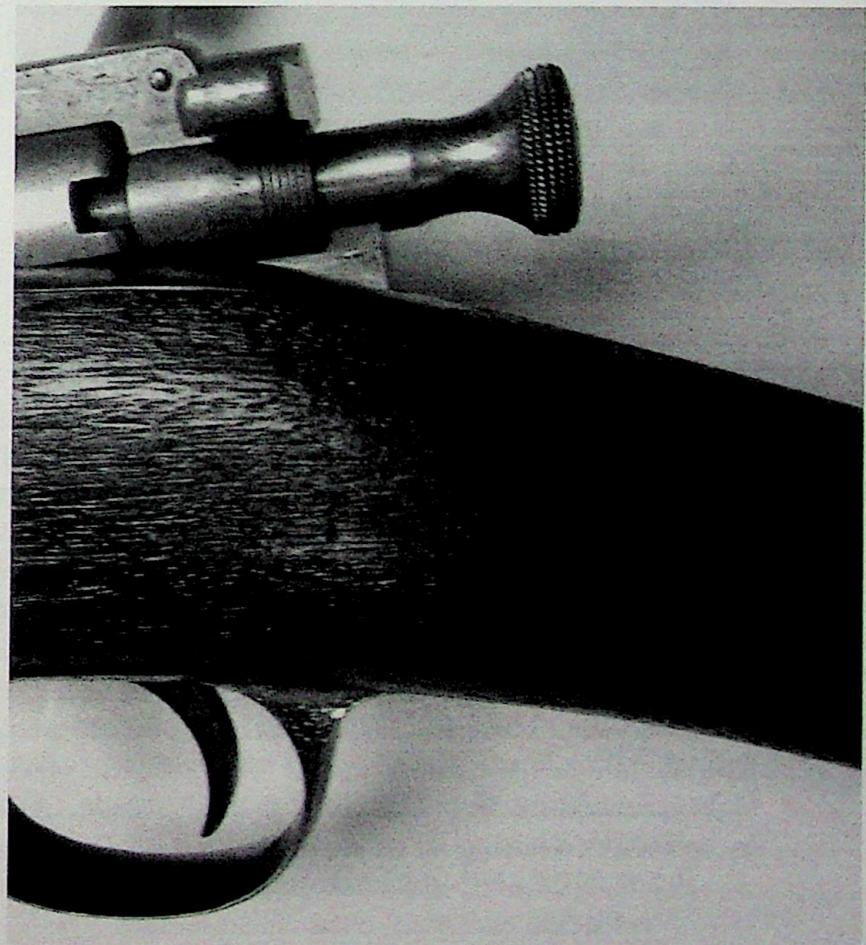


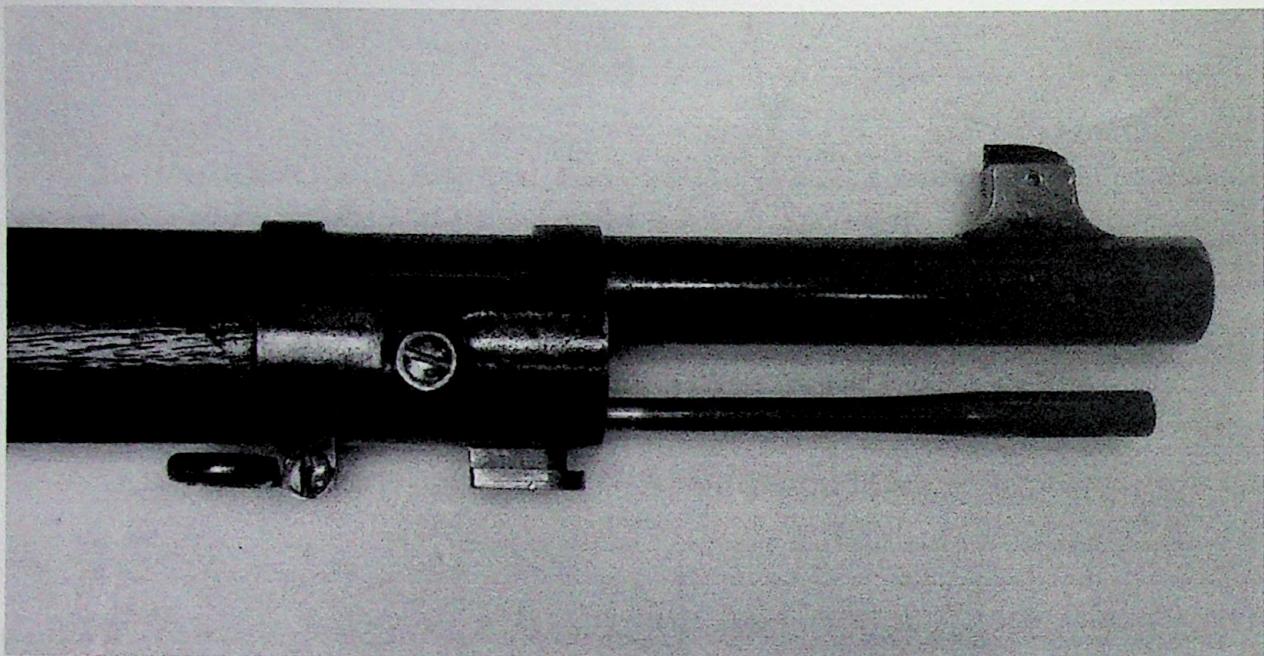
1894 Krag Butt Stock with Flat Butt Plate and no Door or Container for Accessories. Later Changed to a Curved Butt Plate and door for Cleaning Rod and Oiler.



Bottom of 1894 Rifle with Script P for Proof Mark Next to Trigger Guard.

RIGHT - Script 1895 JSA (John Sumner Adams). 1894 Cocking Piece with Square Bottom, Safety Shroud with Serrated Rings, Early Safety for 1894. The 1894 Cut Off is different with Spring and Lip for Receiver Notch. The Cocking Piece and Firing pin are unique to Model 1894 and were later changed. A major change was Made to the 1894 Receiver with the Model 1898 that had a different bolt area modified and the cutting of a notch for later extractors.





The Model 1894 major differences include the front sight, the upper bayonet band, ramrod, the barrel and a completely different stock. The first Krags had a full-length ramrod fitted underneath the barrel, with the stock machined with a slot and hole to accept the steel ramrod. The back end of the ramrod was threaded for tools with the same thread size as used on screws used from 1855 through the M1 Garand. The other end of the ramrod was tapered with a slot for a cleaning patch. The upper barrel band was manufactured with a shroud to allow a hole to be machined to hold the ram rod when in the stock. The stock was machined to hold the barrel band in place with the extra metal shroud. The end of the ram rod hole and slot in the stock had a machined steel block inlaid and held in place to accept the threaded end of the ram rod. The front sight blade was lower in size with different blade thickness with a step from the area in the sight base and the exposed end of the sight blade. All of these differences are closely looked at by collectors desiring all of the different models with parts that are unique to each model.

## COLLECTOR NOTES:

### KRAG SERIAL NUMBERS

(Document From 18<sup>th</sup> Engineers To Supply)

Date: November 16, 1917  
From: Commander, 18<sup>th</sup> Engineers, American Expeditionary Force. Ry.

To: Supply Officer, 18<sup>th</sup> Engineers, American Expeditionary Force. Ry.

Subject: Return of Rifles.

Herewith, (Editor- 10 of 20 are listed). 20 rifles as per enclosed list, per telephonic instructions on November 15, 1917.  
Capt. 13<sup>th</sup> Engineering, Ry.  
Company "C". Rifles 1898, Cal. 30.

471804 (serial numbers)  
469025,  
471953,  
770,  
792,  
819,  
472218,  
471891,  
471860,  
858.

(Note) Data, retyped for clarity, shows that Krag Rifles were issued in World War I. The serial numbers include the very first model 1894 (upgraded to 1898) and the very last model 1898 rifles in the highest serial number range. Data found National Archives, Washington, D.C.

### EXCERPTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS 1880 - 1916

(Editor's comments: The following retyped copies of comments from the 1907-1908

reports show continuing comments on arming the Navy and Marines. It appears that this continued through World War I.)

#### Small Arms and Machine guns.

The Navy and Marine Corps are still equipped with magazine rifles model 1898, while other military organizations use the magazine rifle model 1903. The rifles now in the Navy have been used for a number of years and are rapidly becoming unserviceable. In view of the frequent joint expeditions, the importance of having small arms uniform with those of the Army is apparent.

A sufficient number of model 1903 Springfield .30 caliber rifles to equip the battleships and armored cruisers in commission have been purchased. Last Congress appropriated \$150,000 which is available for the purchase of more rifles and machine guns, and it is expected that all vessels will be equipped with this improved rifle within the next two years.

Practically all battleships and armored cruisers are now equipped with the latest model Springfield rifle, and Colt automatic pistols will be furnished the fleet.

Equipping of vessels with Springfield rifles has been carried on as funds permitted. At present, some vessels have Krag-Jorgensen rifles.

(Note) The Krag Rifles were in active use in the Navy and Marines in World War I, and the Army gave many rifles and parts to the Navy. In approximately 1918/1919, a full sale of rifles, parts, receivers and other equipment was sold to Stokes Kirk of Philadelphia and possibly other vendors.

**COLT OSS PISTOLS**

SPDDO 472  
Ser. No. 12478

1st Ind.

26 MAR 1945

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.  
To: The Chief of Ordnance.

It is desired that the Office of Strategic Services Requisition No. 49-091-45134b-O, dated 20 February 1945, be amended to read as follows:

- a. Pistol, automatic, Cal. .38 each 400.
- b. Pistol, automatic, Cal. .25 to be cancelled.

By command of Lieutenant General SOMERVELL:

DATE MAR 28 1945 FILE SMC E.T.

P. A. HILLEMAN,  
Brigadier General, G. S. C.,  
Director of Supply, A. S. P.

Wm. H. BROWN,  
Lt. Colonel, C.A.C.,  
Exec., Ordnance—CWS Issue Branch,  
Distribution Division, ASF.

ms  
Record.....

1. Basic letter fm OSS, dated 23 March 1945, no file, subject: "Office of Strategic Services Requisition No. 49-091-45134b-O", to Ch/Ord THRU: CG, ASF, stated that upon direction fm Mr. M.I. McHugh, Chief, Procurement and Supply Branch, request that subject Requisition be amended as follows:

- a. Pistol, auto, Cal. 38 each 400
- b. Pistol, auto, Cal. 25 to be cancelled.

2. The Pistol, Auto. Cal. .25 was cancelled due to the lack of production facilities to manufacture. Mr. McHugh was contacted by Col. Dull as to the production difficulty and cancellation of the Cal. .25 Automatic Pistols indicated in the basic letter.

SUBJECT: OSS Requisition No. 49-091-45134b-O

SPDDO  
SPD  
5670

24 MAR 45  
WMS SP 864

71B9/7

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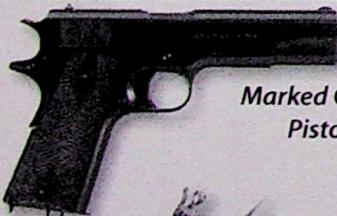
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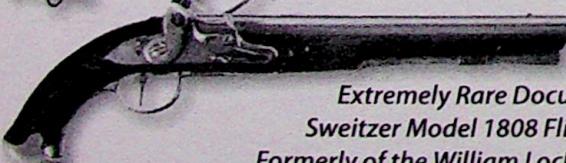
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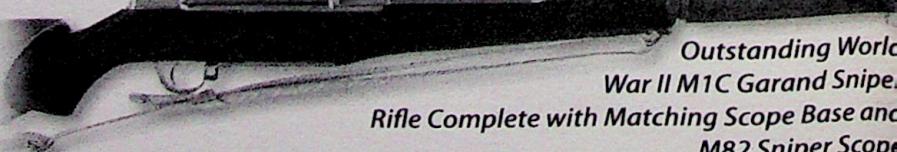
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Model 1807 Flintlock Rifle

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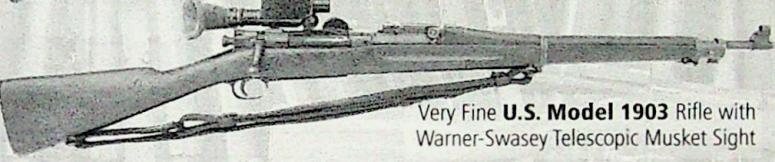
Extremely Rare **Springfield M1922 Heavy Barrel International Match Rifle** 1 of only 12 manufactured at the U.S.M.C. Small Arms Arsenal in Phila, PA. (Former Burt Kellerstedt Collection)



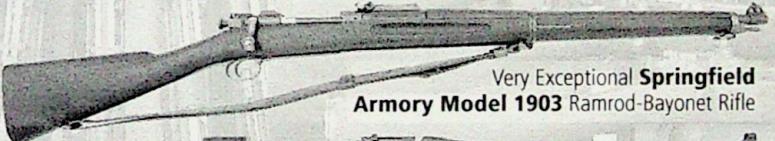
Extremely Rare **Springfield U.S. M1903 International Match Rifle** with Winchester Heavy Barrel Assembled by Frankford Arsenal 1924 (one of the fifteen rifles selected to be used in the 1924 Olympic matches)



Fine **Springfield Model 1903** with Winchester A-5 Scope and Star Gauged Barrel



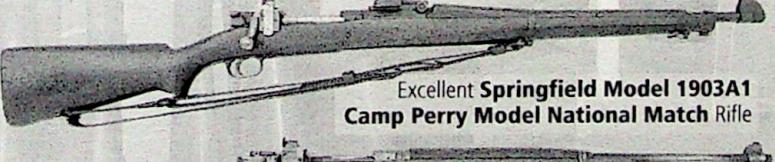
Very Fine **U.S. Model 1903** Rifle with Warner-Swasey Telescopic Musket Sight



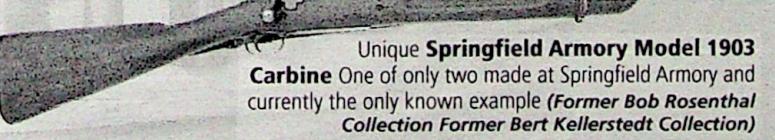
Very Exceptional **Springfield Armory Model 1903** Ramrod-Bayonet Rifle



Ultra Rare **US Model 1918 - Mark 1 Pedersen Device** with full complement of accessories



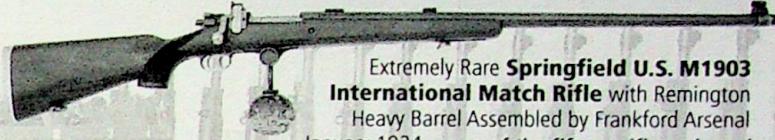
Excellent **Springfield Model 1903A1 Camp Perry Model National Match Rifle**



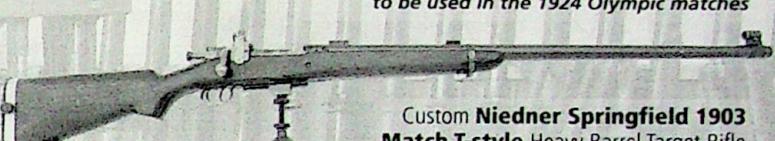
Unique **Springfield Armory Model 1903 Carbine** One of only two made at Springfield Armory and currently the only known example (Former Bob Rosenthal Collection Former Burt Kellerstedt Collection)



Extremely Rare **Springfield Model 1903 Air Service Rifle** "Stripped for Air Service" (former Peter Wainwright Collection former Burt Kellerstedt Collection)



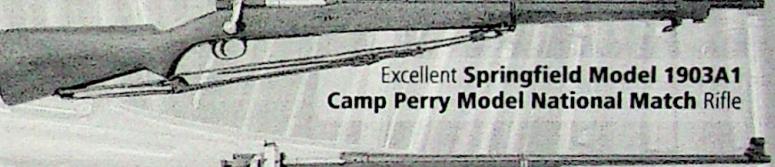
Extremely Rare **Springfield U.S. M1903 International Match Rifle** with Remington Heavy Barrel Assembled by Frankford Arsenal January 1924 – one of the fifteen rifles selected to be used in the 1924 Olympic matches



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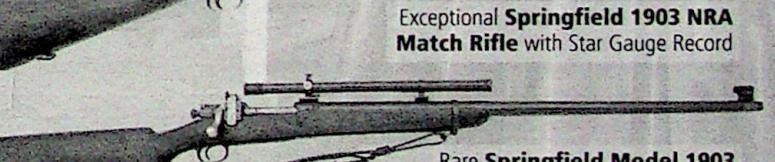
Excellent **Springfield Model 1903A1 Camp Perry Model National Match Rifle**



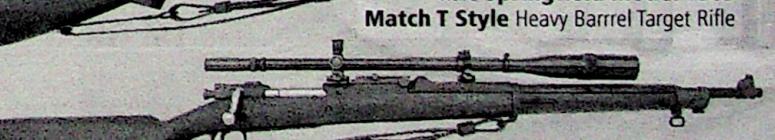
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