

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 159 June 2019

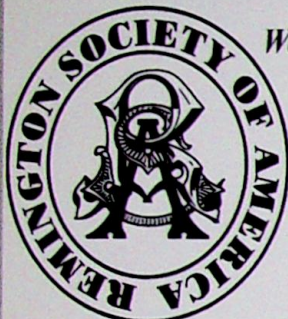
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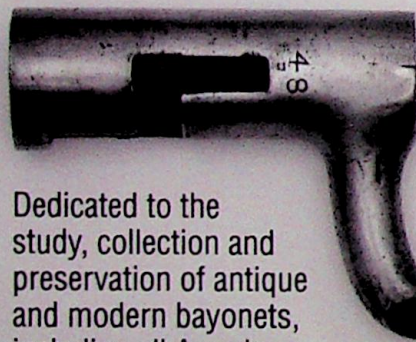
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Cover: U. S. Model 1896 Krag Carbine

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

And

Springfield Research Service Newsletter

Number 159

June 2019

- 2 **Springfield Research Service Data Base Status**
- 11 **USMC Documented GAS Trap M1 Rifle Serial Number 3784**
- 19 **Gas Trap Test Guns Serial Numbers 35091 and 35093**
- 23 **Springfield 1873 Carbine Number 18006**

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-1

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE DATA BASE STATUS

SRS has expanded our data base with many additions of new information on early Gas Trap M-1 Garands, Model 1903 Springfields, and USMC 22 caliber rifles. There are many documents on serial numbers and test rifles. A great amount of data has not been published on manufacturing dates, upgraded rifle parts and changes to various models of the M1 Garand, 1903 Springfield, and commercial parts purchases.

We accumulated an extensive amount of information on the M1 Garand with many tests and developments. John Garand's designs started early in 1920 or before, and his efforts produced many designs and research efforts. Basic work included the development of a new cartridge that was different than the final standard 30/06.

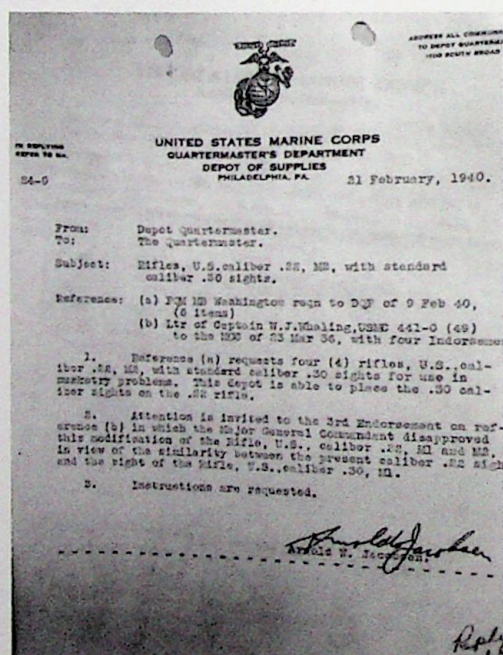
M1 Garand early models included the Gas Trap with unique gas cylinder and stock. There were many tests and different variations until a major change to the new Gas Port model. Our efforts have resulted in a very large data base on serial numbers, tests and changes, with different parts and modifications.

We also have found a great deal of information on .22 caliber rifles used by the United States Marine Corps.

Also found is the data on the Winchester test model that competed with the M1 Garand. The stainless steel rifle was tested against the M1 and the Model 1903 Springfield and the Browning Automatic rifle (BAR).

Records also showed details of weaknesses of the M1 Garand and the Model 1903 Springfield. The information is complete with many serial numbers and photos.

The United States Marine Corps modified standard Model 1903 Springfield rifles to use as trainers. The USMC rifles were in caliber .22 for low cost shooting and used altered M-2 .22 caliber rifles with a standard Model 1903 straight stock and hand guard. The barrel was altered to have the model 1903 rear sight base and 1905 type rear sight. The overall appearance and weight and size were similar to the .30 caliber standard rifle. The letter below was dated 21 February 1940 and signed by Arnold W. Jacobsen.



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-2

Below: A copy of the Winchester Company letter shipping two Model 70 Winchester rifles in caliber 300 Holland and Holland. Winchester provided many rifles that are special from early World War II on through Viet Nam. The record below shows a shipping date of February 9, 1940.

There are other documents that show additional 300 Holland and Holland Winchester rifles bought for the United States Marine Corps with the same heavy bull barrel. During the Cuban Missile Crisis the USAF turned in many .30 caliber rifles to an Army base in Georgia. There were 300 Holland and Holland rifles at the base. They had loading tools, special cleaning tools, and a folding stool with a large pouch with additional tools and accessories.

Below: Winchester delivery to USMC document is shown.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY 2000 1207 NAVY BLVD. WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01890 WINCHESTER		DATE 10/10/83 TIME OFFICE	
DEPT QUARTERMASTER U.S. MARINE CORPS 1100 SOUTH BRAD ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA.		UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT 2000 1207 NAVY BLVD. WASHINGTON, D. C.	
FIRM - WINCHESTER PAID CSE-11 HOUSE #0			
Your Order has been received and entered on above list. It will be given ready advice as to cost.			
CASE NO. 113 070000	QUANTITY 470 FULL GRN 300 N.E.H. MAGNEN 20" ND HEAVY BBL. LUNAR REG. SIGHT 40M LUNAR FRONT SIGHT 77 LESS THE STRAP	PRICE 2	QUANTITY 76-12

Below: Model 1903 Sporting rifles in caliber. 30 with NRA type short stock, middle sporter band, Lyman receiver sight, and NRA flat butt plate were sold at the National Matches in 1930. Forty rifles were sold by the Army office at the matches. The document is dated June 12, 1930. It was signed by J. M. Coward, Lt. Colonel, USA, Rtd., N.B.P.R.P.

Other documents show that about 400 NRA Sporting rifles were transferred from the U.S. Justice Department (FBI) to the United States Marine Corps at the start of World War II. **(Shown Below)** is Colonel J. M. Conrad's letter.

There are many Model 1903 Sporting rifles that were used by the U.S. Military. They are very scarce in original condition.

WASHINGTON

June 25, 1950

Subject: Arms for sale during the National Matches, 1950.

To: Chief of Ordnance,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

1. It is requested that the following arms be shipped to the Ordnance Supply Office, National Matches, after July 1st, 1950, so as to reach Camp Perry, Ohio, not later than August 1950, 1950:


40 Rifles, U.S. Caliber M 1906, 1904 Sporting Type.
25 Rifles, U.S. Cal. M 1906 M 1904 M 1905, 1904 Type.

These to be held for sale during the National Matches to include members, on approval of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship.

Embrey

The U.S. Army tested a new operating rod using a stainless steel tube and a forging. It also altered a Gas Trap Gas Cylinder with extensive modifications to test the experimental operating Rod.

Below: Springfield Armory Research Project 42-24 dated January 13, 1937. Test of operating rods, U.S. Cal. 30 M1, made by welding a piece of stainless steel tubing to a forging.

 **SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, MASS.**

January 13, 1937

1st Report (interim ~~final~~) upon
42-24
S. A. RESEARCH PROJECT NO. 1937 - 3

SUBJECT: Test of Operating Rods, U.S. Semiautomatic Rifle, Cal. 30 M1, made by welding a piece of steel tubing to a forging.

Date of Project: October 30, 1936 Ex. O. 2588

This report covers period from Oct. 30, 1936 to Nov. 16, 1936

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Purpose:	2	
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Conclusions:	7	
Recommendations:	8	
Exhibit:		
1, 2 and 3, and 4		

Springfield Armory specified in Research Memo No. 92 that a new compensating spring would be tested (drawing number B146855). Records would be kept on the number of rounds fired when tested. The rifle would have a burst firing of 120 rounds and additional burst firings. Any breakage would stop the test.

Letter signed by Lt. Colonel E.A. Borden, Ordnance Department, Head of Research. Letter was dated November 10, 1936. The letter was approved by Col. T.J. Smith,

Commanding Officer, Ordnance Department. The letter is shown below.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, MASS.
WJL/rdh
November 10, 1936.

CHANGE NO. 1
RESEARCH MEMORANDUM
NUMBER 92

SUBJECT: Test of Operating Rod made by welding a piece of Stainless Steel Tubing to a Forging.

REFERENCES: Research Memorandum No. 92.

OBJECT OF TEST: To that specified in Research Memo. No. 92, add:- To further test an experimental compensating spring.

MATERIAL REQUIRED: In addition to that specified in Research Memo. No. 92, add:-

At such time during the test as it shall be available, an experimental compensating spring, per drawing B146855, shall be installed in the rifle and a record kept of when it was installed and the number of rounds it had previously been fired.

TEST PROGRAM:

1. Change sub-paragraph 2b to read as follows:-
Fire one (1) burst of 120 rounds firing one (1) round per minute, and in each succeeding repetition of the firing specified in this paragraph, the rate of fire shall be increased as follows: 2nd burst, 2 rounds per minute; 3rd burst, 3 rounds per minute; 4th burst, 4 rounds per minute; each succeeding burst, 12 rounds per minute.
2. Add sub-paragraph 2g. If and when any breakage occurs, the test shall be immediately suspended and the Director of Research notified. Test shall be resumed only by direction of the Director of Research.
3. All costs in connection with this work will be charged to J.O. 2588-4.

SUBMITTED BY:
W.A. BORDEN,
Lt-Colonel, Ordnance Department,
Director of Research.

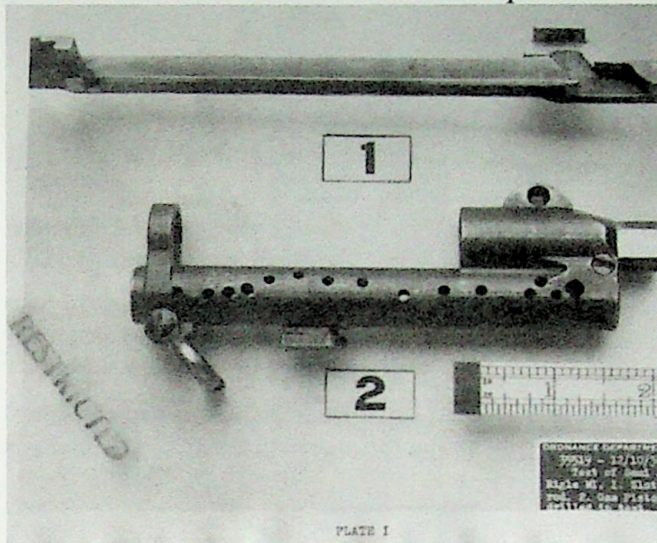
APPROVED:
T.J. SMITH,
Colonel, Ordnance Department,
Commanding.

Exhibit 2

In addition to the operating rod, a special gas trap gas cylinder was modified for the test. It is shown below with many holes drilled for various operating rod locations and measurements. It has a 2 under the photo. The front sight is in place and the plug with screw is in place. It was common to see the screw bugged up from cleaning and constant use.

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Also shown is the operating rod that was used in the test and has a 1 under the photo.



Below: Lt. Colonel W.A. Borien's letter.

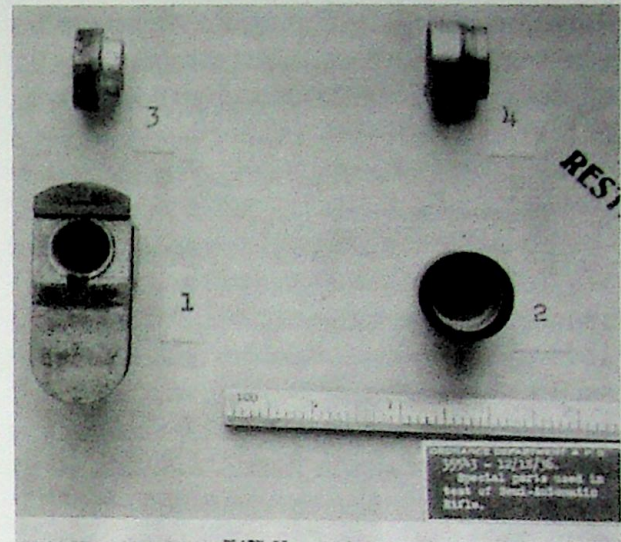
S.A. RESEARCH PROJECT NO. 42-24/1937-3

1. REFERENCES
O.O. 121.5/5521-S.A. 474.2/763
Research Memorandum No. 92, Exhibit 1, attached and
Change No. 1, Res. Memo. 92, Exhibit 2, attached.
2. PURPOSE
See Exhibits 1 and 2.
3. MATERIAL
See Exhibits 1 and 2.
4. PROGRAM
See Exhibits 1 and 2.
5. RESULTS OF TESTS
See Report of Test, Exhibit 3, attached.
6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS
See Exhibit 4.
7. CONCLUSIONS
An operating rod made by welding a seamless steel tubing to a forging functioned satisfactorily over an endurance test of 10,000 rounds and gave as good service as has been experienced with the standard one piece rod. In spite of a premature ignition, which caused a severe blowback, which seriously damaged the weapon and broke the operating rod about two inches from the weld, an examination shows no indication of damage to the weld itself.
8. RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that an operating rod of the welded type, as tested, be approved for use in the U.S. Semi-automatic Rifle, Cal..30 M1 and that drawings be revised to show this change.

SUBMITTED BY:
W.A. Borien
Lt-Colonel, Ordnance Department,
Director of Research.

APPROVED:
[Signature]
Lt-Colonel, Ordnance Department,
Director of Research.

This was discussed with the
Ordnance Department and the
Army Ordnance Office and
the action was approved by
the Ordnance Office.



Above: Special parts used in the tests of the Semi-Automatic Rifle. There were many aspects of a complete test that required extensive technical analysis, special tools, and engineering. The U.S. Army took great care to make sure all possible operational conditions were examined.

We find many data entries that show extensive insight of qualified civilian ordnance personnel and U. S. army officers written evaluations. The plans make use of near real military actions and technical insight to get the best results. Many firing tests were completed and cross- checked with accurate data on all types of ammunition.

The letter shown by Lt. Colonel Borien and approved by Colonel T.J. Smith, Commanding Officer, Ordnance Department has a list of recommendations concerning the test of a new operating rod for the U.S. M1 rifle. The following quote is shown.

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"It is recommended that an operating rod of the welded type, as tested, be approved for use in the U.S. Semi-automatic Rifle, Cal. . 30 M1 and those drawings be revised to show this change." This quote was made by a senior Army officer and sent to each division concerned with testing and the use of the M1 rifle.

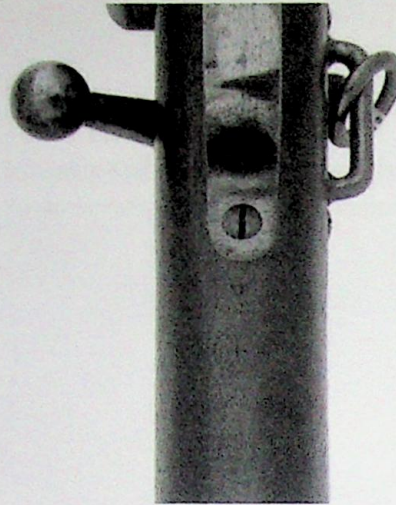
COLLECTORS NOTE 159-1

We have received many inquiries concerning descriptions of original model 1895 and 1896 Krag carbines with short stocks and saddle rings. All were caliber 30/40 caliber and have 22 inch barrels with CARBINE rear sights. Sample photos of original parts are shown with some key identification of parts.

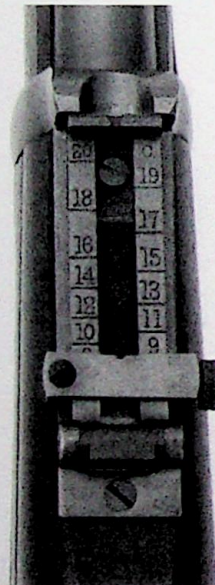
Below: Right side of carbine rear sight fitted up to the short carbine hand guard. The two short headed screws are shown.



Next Paragraph: 1896 carbine shown with saddle ring assembly on the side, trigger guard, and P proofed in stock. A small letter above the P is the stock makers mark.



Below: 1896 Krag rear sight graduated to 20 with a C on ladder.



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-6



Above: Model 1896 Krag Carbine dated 1897 in cartouche on left of stock. Saddle ring and bar is shown with side plate, bolt assembly and cut off.

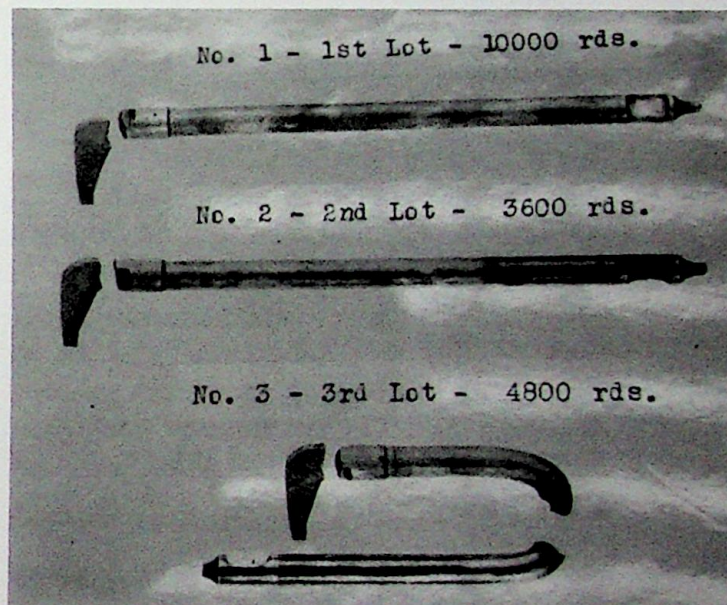
Model of 1896 Krag Carbine Photos:
Courtesy of Jack Lewis.

U. S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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The number indicating the last issue of a subscription is after a subscriber's name. We want to correct any data that is overlooked or missing. Please send comments. There are some SRS products that are out of stock. Please send us any corrections for address changes, holding subscriptions, or temporary addresses.

The following photo shows one of the first easy to break parts of the new M1 Gas Trap rifle. The broken firing pins were encountered on most rifles during testing and was written up in several reports from the United States Marine Corps, Aberdeen Proving Grounds and other U.S. Army tests. It would be very difficult to find a first model M1 rifle with the original firing pin. The rifles were subject to massive shooting tests with many rounds of ammunition. There were several early test results that asked for immediate replacements during the early tests. All tests suggested spare firing pins to be added to parts for the tests and replacement firing pins for all rifles.



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-7

The photo above shows various lots with number of cartridges fired.

CURRENT ISSUE

Issue number 159 dated June 2019 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility for June 1, 2019 and we rely on the Post Office to deliver first class mail as soon as they are able.

ADVERTISING

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

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS

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

Research letters include USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 7th Cavalry, and Spanish American War. Other unique units may require special research. More

time is spent to travel to government facilities and comply with their rules for searching, copying, and the actual handling of documents. We have been cross-checking many pieces of data and using U.S. Archive personnel and others to offer opinions on hard- to- read information. The Archives personnel have been very helpful in this area.

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

The size of government data files is overwhelming. We cannot duplicate all of the millions of pages. We try to copy the specifics and include them with SRS letters. In many cases the data may have a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations. This may require working with armed guards, checking our identification, and special stamps for security classification or other rules. Special documents require more time and may have higher costs.

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COMMENTS AND INPUTS

We always want comments.
editor@usmartialarmscollector.com.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

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

LETTERS ANSWERED

Do you have data on Model 1873
Springfield carbine serial number 18006.

*Yes. That is a very rare carbine issued in
1876. I am researching the data and a full
research will be done for the cavalry unit
that it was issue to and the date. We will
try to get copies of the unit, issue
information and battles for the 7th Cavalry.
I have received your photos and will plan
on publishing the article.
Thanks, Editor.*

Any information on Model 1922 rifle.
Original condition serial number 1183.
*We searched and found no data on that
serial number. Closest is 1190. Usually
original guns and upgraded models were
issued to U.S. military units and the
records have been lost. No copies have
been found. It is not listed in our sales
records. Editor.*

Do you have data on M1 Garand National
Match serial number 37535785.
*No data found. Many numbers on those
rifles have disappeared and there has been
no copies or records found. Editor.*

Thank you for the data on Henry serial
number 7500.
*We waiting for data from the original
Army and U.S. records. As soon as issue
number 159 is completed, we will be
writing a full record on that rifle. Thanks.
Editor.*

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-9

Do you have any copies of issue 158.
We have few left. (\$10 postpaid). Editor.

The following is a description of a Single Action Army Colt revolver with military markings. Please let me know if you need other information to write a letter and research this pistol.

We need the serial number. Editor.

SHIPPING COMMENTS

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

If you use PAYPAL, Please check off the correct boxes with your specific instructions. We receive complaints if a subscriber accidentally checks off the automatic payment box and does not want that service.

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

We will fix any problem that we can. Please contact us by email or mail if you need assistance.

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE SUPPORT

SRS uses RACKNER SOLUTIONS for our software support and protection of our database. Rackner Solutions is a leader in providing cutting edge enterprise and government software services. They are contributing editors and will provide ongoing support to Springfield Research Service. They can be reached at <https://racknersolutions.com> or contact@racknersolutions.com. We find that SRS must call on Rackner on a regular basis to keep up on changes and software protection.

SERIAL NUMBER SEARCH ISSUES

The U.S. Archives has a series of new rules on doing research and checking out documents for research. The new rules will cause more time to search documents and find old documents .

This will also affect the time needed to search and find data on serial numbers of weapons and associated data. There is no easy way to quickly do research. Recent activity has lead to some data being lost and the Archive personnel are trying to make sure that the U.S. Archive data is fully protected. It will take us more time to do research.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-10

**UNITED STATES MARINE
CORPS M1 GARAND GAS TRAP
TEST RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER
3784**

The office of the Chief of Ordnance, War Department, authorized a comprehensive Marksmanship Training of the U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1 and delivered the report to the Springfield Armory on August 17, 1939.

The test was conducted by the First Battalion, Sixth Marines with comparative firing of the Model 1903 Springfield rifle and the B. A. R. Model 1918.

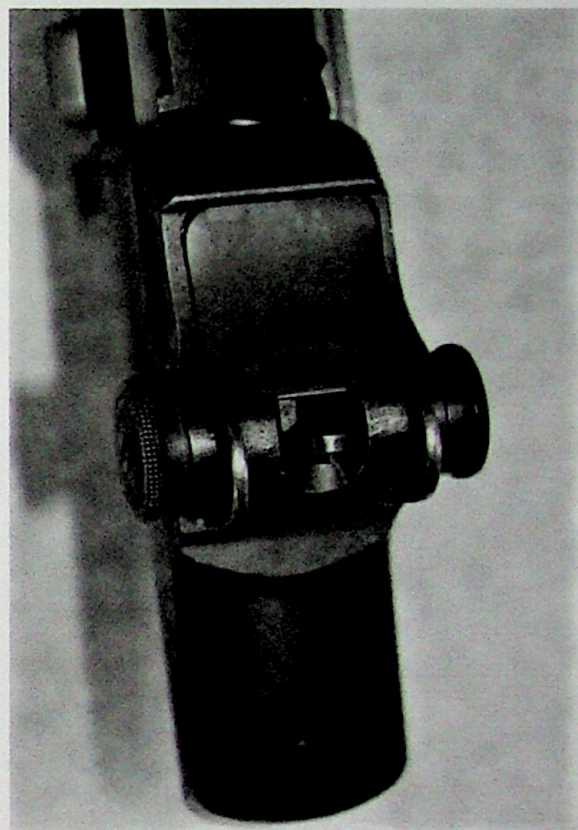
Lt. Colonel W. W. Ashurst, USMC, was the technical advisor and observer. This data was found in General Correspondence of the USMC Quartermaster, 1939 and 1940.

Serial number 3784 was noted in the test and found on page 2 of the U. S. Archives support correspondence with serial number and number of rounds fired. The extensive tests were conducted in as real battle conditions as possible with only a very few, if any surviving examples in any type of Gas Trap configuration.



Left: SA -1 bolt

Below: Serial number 3784 with SA-1 bolt, rear sight, and sight cover.



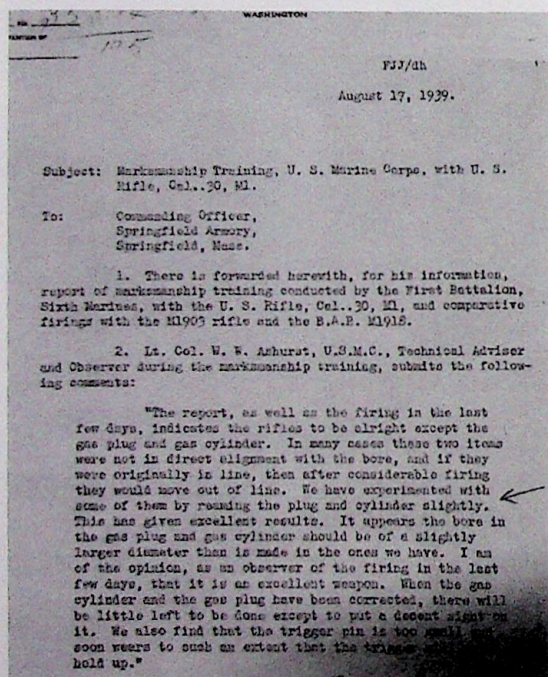
This rifle is one of the few that has survived and the serial number is shown in the United States Marine Corps documentation. The M1 rifles were tested in hard and exhausting conditions to be as close to combat conditions as possible. The M1 was tested against the Model 1903 Springfield and the M 1918 Browning automatic rifle with thousands rounds of ammunition.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-11

The War Department letter shown is one of many pages of documentation that is in the SRS data base. The information includes many of the serial numbers, many USMC modifications to the test rifles and extensive data on firing, parts breakage, and recommendations on changes to the M1 rifle and data on almost every part that was used.

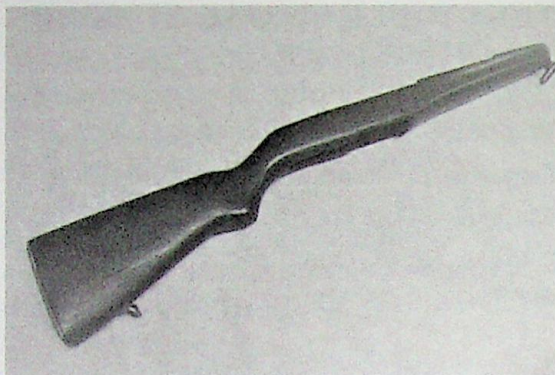
There is extensive information on modifications to just about all of the test rifles and the parts that were changes or broken during the tests and firings.

The following is the War Department letter with Lt. Colonel W. W. Ashurst, U.S.M.C. Technical Advisor and Observer for the marksmanship training.

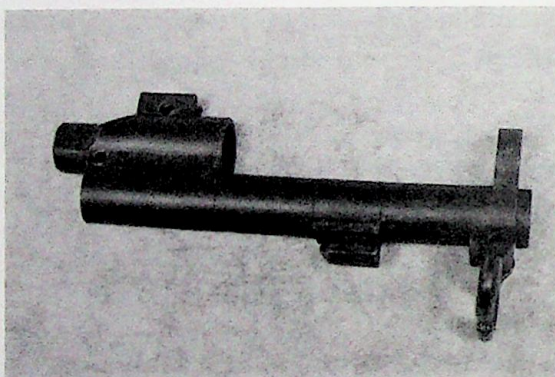


The letter is dated August, 1939. "All M-1 rifles numbered 3400 to 4100 (93% of those in the Marine Corps) were manufactured between the dates of August 26 and

September 23, 1938."



Above: Gas Trap Stock with no trap butt plate, two screws, lower sling swivel, early upper sling swivel, cartouche and P.



Above: Upgraded gas cylinder is a replacement with no markings. Swivel, plug and front sight are blackened stainless steel.. Finish is black with black stainless steel front sight and steel screws. **Note:** The USMC changed the original gas cylinder by boring out the plug and front to enlarge the holes to their specifications. They were not used as made by Springfield Armory. This cylinder was made at a much later date.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-12

The following USMC letter illustrates the recommended changes that were needed to correct findings during the firing tests. They included redesign of front and rear sights; modifying the cylinder and plug to provide better positive alignment with the bore; ream gas plug to prevent bullet deflection; change sight blade to .05 or .06; etch rear sight with white filler; reduce size of rear sight aperture; "U" notch top of rear sight; better quality springs; change receiver construction so bolt can be easier to remove; increase size of rear swivel; reduce hammer travel; improve rear sight slippage; improve firing pin metal; provide well in stock; improve trigger pin; and change design of front hand guards.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: E.O. 13526

Annex "A" (cont'd).

(n) Recommendations, if any, for correction of mechanical deficiencies of the rifle.

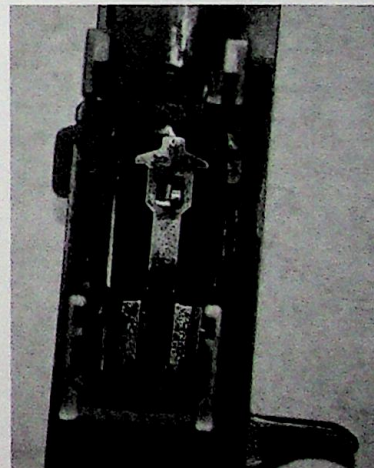
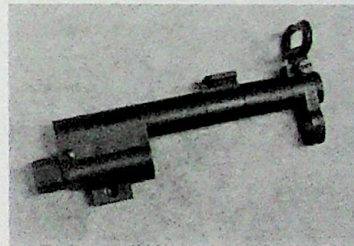
The following recommendations were submitted under this heading:

Reference	Recommendation
(h),(r),(e)	Redesign front and assembly to eliminate play in the front sight and provide positive alignment of the gas cylinder plug with the bore.
(m)	Ream gas plug to prevent deflected shots when out of alignment with the bore.
(h),(p),(r),(t)	Change front sight blade to .05 or .06.
(p)	Etch rear sight horizontally with white filler as a reference line to center front sight.
(h),(j)	Reduce size of rear sight aperture; reference (j) also recommends that a "U" notch be provided in the top of the rear sight, which can be used as a battle sight to increase its efficiency both in anti/aircraft firing and combat work at short ranges.
(h)	Provide a better quality spring metal for clip ejector; the present spring weakens with use.
(j)	Change receiver construction so bolt can be removed to facilitate replacing broken firing pin and extractors in the field without taking out operating rod spring and compensating rod.
(e)	Increase size of rear sling swivel; present swivel too small to allow sling clip to pass through easily.
(t)	Reduce hammer travel.
(p)	Improve design of rear sight to prevent "slippage" during firing.
(r),(e),(t)	Improve quality of metal in firing pin.
(M),(j),(p)	Provide well in butt stock to carry combination tool, lubricant, and essential spare parts with each rifle.
(r),(t)	Improve quality of metal and the fit of trigger pin.
(a)	Change design and material in front hand guards.
(a),(t)	Modify method of holding receiver group in stock to eliminate play which develops due to wear on locking lugs with constant use of rifle as now designed.

-22- RESTRICTED

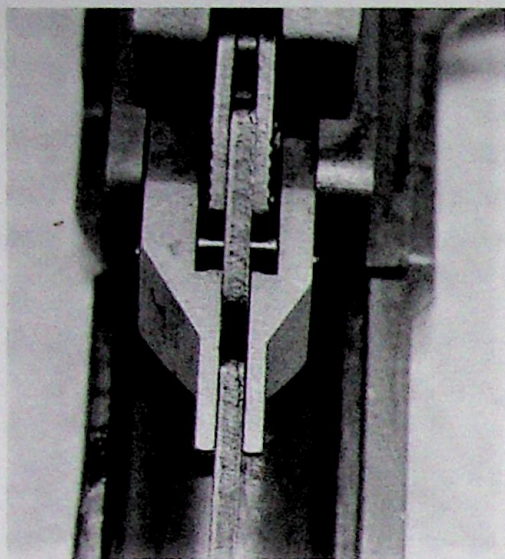
SRS has found data that shows that the number of changes, recommendations and field tests resulted in many or most of all of the rifles survived with different parts or modified parts and would be almost impossible to find in original condition or try to restore to original test conditions. These changes are also compounded by later tests at Aberdeen Proving grounds and conversion to the newer M1 with Gas Port, newer parts, and newer stock and hand guards.

Below: Right side of gas cylinder showing screws, rear sight, and plug.



Left: Action showing early follower and internal parts.

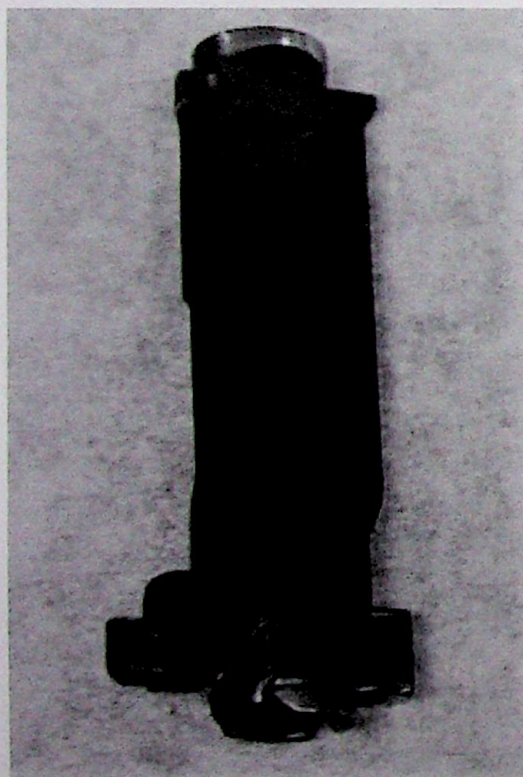
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-13



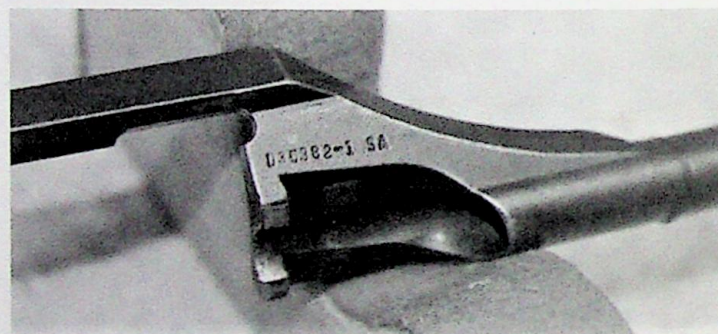
Above: Early follower in place with one piece spring. The rifle also has a two piece spring and early short fork.



Above: Early milled grooved hand guard band.



Above: SA-1 bolt with all parts.



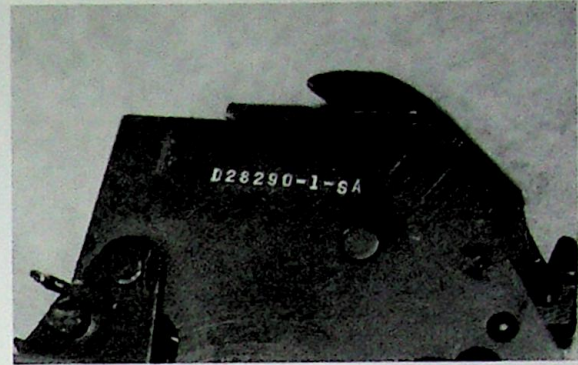
Above: SA-1 op rod with shallow cut.



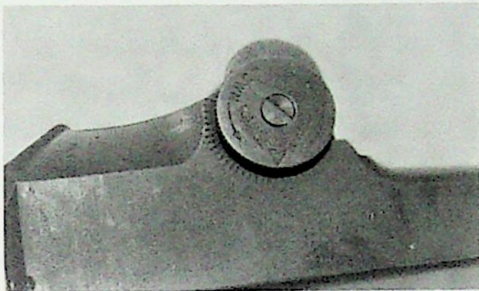
Above: Op rod handle.



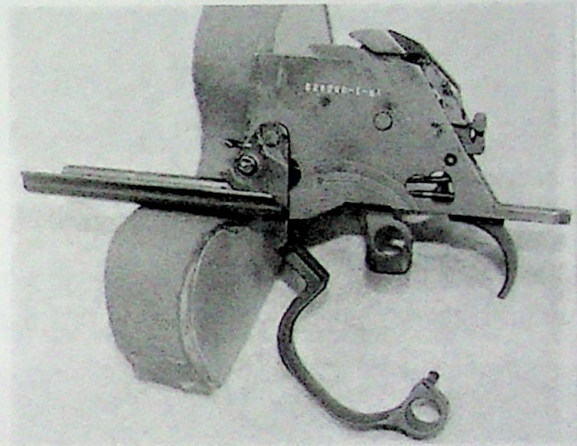
Above: P on gas trap stock grip area.



Above: D28290-1-SA trigger guard.



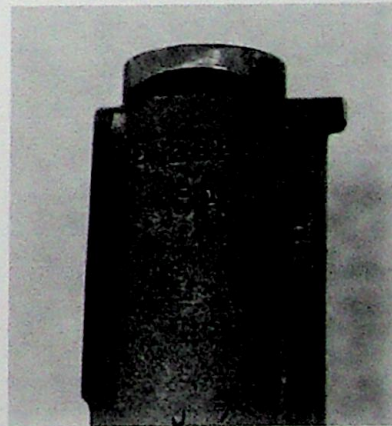
Above: Left side of early rear sight with adjustment knob.



Above: Left side of early complete trigger guard with markings.



Above: Early gas trap trigger guard assembly.



Above: SA-1 bolt markings.



Above: Serial number 3784 on rear receiver ring of USMC rifle

Below: Serial number 3784 is listed with a number of other rifles that were tested. 3784 is the only one that we have documented to this date.

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Rounds Fired from each rifle (continued) Sheet #2

RIFLE NUMBER	ROUNDS FIRED	RIFLE NUMBER	ROUNDS FIRED	RIFLE NUMBER	ROUNDS FIRED
3761	491	3824	102	3905	448
3762	102	3826	467	3906	102
3763	321	3827	None	3907	459
3764	459	3828	499	3911	None
3765	517	3829	20	3912	None
3766	102	3852	518	3913	None
3767	502	3854	78	3915	54
3768	477	3855	68	3920	489
3769	510	3857	452	3921	188
3770	102	3858	46	3923	None
3771	596	3861	463	3924	None
3772	432	3862	465	3925	517
3773	451	3863	481	3928	482
3775	None	3864	405	3929	494
3777	None	3865	447	3931	None
3778	46	3867	None	3934	502
3779	None	3868	502	3945	502
3780	486	3869	58	3946	41
3781	None	3872	452	3946	None
3782	479	3883	517	3947	445
3784	356	3885	58	3948	44
3788	48	3886	None	3949	487

On 9 May 1940 the memorandum for the Major General Commandant was sent out as a report on the U. S. caliber .30 , M-1 (Garand Semiautomatic) for target year 1939. There were 400 rifles delivered to the United States Marine Corps.

Distribution was 300 rifles to 2nd Marine brigade, San Diego, California; 35 rifles to 1st Marine Brigade, Quantico, Virginia; 35 rifles to Basic School, Quantico, Virginia; 10 rifles to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia; and 20 rifles to Depot of Supplies, Philadelphia.

Below: Copy of 9 May, 1940 cover letter.

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Quartermaster
COPY
Quartermaster

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL
RESTRICTED 9 May, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT:

Subject: Report on U.S. Caliber .30, M-1 (Garand Semiautomatic) covering the target year 1939.

Reference: (a) DMP memo #6497, approved by MGC, dated 19 Nov 38.
(b) Ltr MGC 2000-40-50, "Rifles, U.S. Cal. .30, M-1, etc.", to CG, MFC, dated 28 Dec 38.
(c) Annex "A", "Consolidated reports received from the service on the performance of U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M-1, for the target year 1939".
(d) Ltr MGC 2000-40-50 AN-200-je to CG, 28 Mar 39, MFC, dated 6 Oct 39.

Enclosure: (1) Reference (c).

1. Reference (a) provided for the distribution of 400 rifles, U.S. caliber .30, M-1, delivered to the Marine Corps in September and November, 1938, as follows:

200 to 2d Marine Brigade, MFC, MGS, San Diego, Calif.
35 to 1st Marine Brigade, MFC, MGS, Quantico, Va.
35 to Basic School, MFC, MGS, Quantico, Va.
10 to Marine Corps Schools, MFC, Quantico, Va.
20 to Depot of Supplies, Phila., Pa.

2. The 200 rifles sent to the 2d Marine Brigade, MFC, were used to fully equip the rifle companies of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, with the U.S. rifle, caliber .30, M-1, in lieu of the U.S. rifle, caliber .30, M-1903.

3. The 50 rifles issued to the 1st Marine Brigade, MFC, Quantico, were used to equip one platoon, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines.

4. The 35 rifles issued to the Basic School and the 10 rifles issued to the Marine Corps Schools were used for normal target practice of a limited number of officers attached to those organizations in lieu of the U.S. rifle, caliber .30, M-1903, during the target year 1939.

The average rounds fired for each rifle was 639.6 with a low of 16 and a high of 353. There were 131 stoppages including malfunctions and broken parts. There were additional problems with gas cylinder plugs

out of line, cracked stocks and other component failures.

The reports also stated that thousands of additional rounds were fired at Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Benning, Georgia.

Some specific problems included rifles refusal to accept clips, refusal to accept first rounds, and failure to eject clips.

Reports were still favorable and suggested more care, cleaning, and lubrication.

The conclusions were that there were more problems than normally found with the M-1903. The M-1 was found to be not as accurate as the M-1903.

The USMC found that the front sight acted as the key for the cylinder and barrel assembly. They stated that this would be corrected in later models. Also, the front sight blade was too wide.

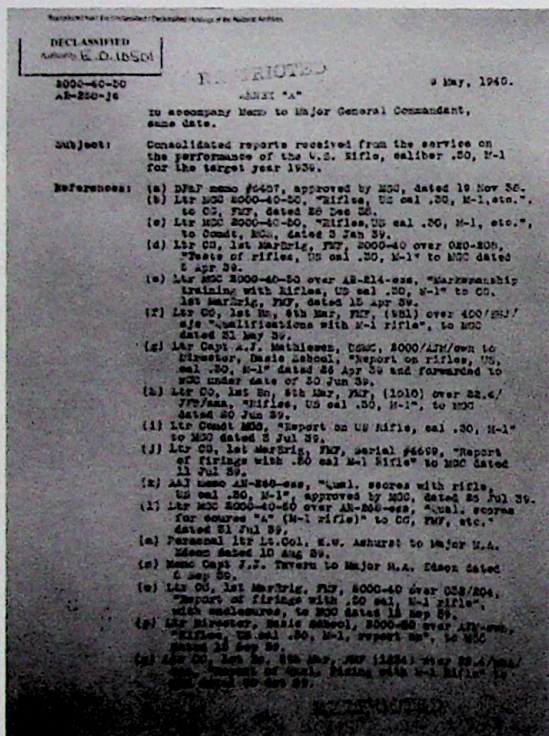
Recommendations included redesign front sight, improve firing pin, provide a well in the butt stock for lubrication and spare parts. Other items were to change front sight from .05 to .06 width, reduce size in rear sight aperture, improve rear sight, better spring material for clip ejector, improve metal in trigger pin, change design and material in front hand guards, modify stock play of receiver, and improve cleaning tool.

Spare parts that should be furnished for each man and should include firing pin, ejector, spring for ejector, trigger pin, extractor, and plunger and extractor spring assembly.

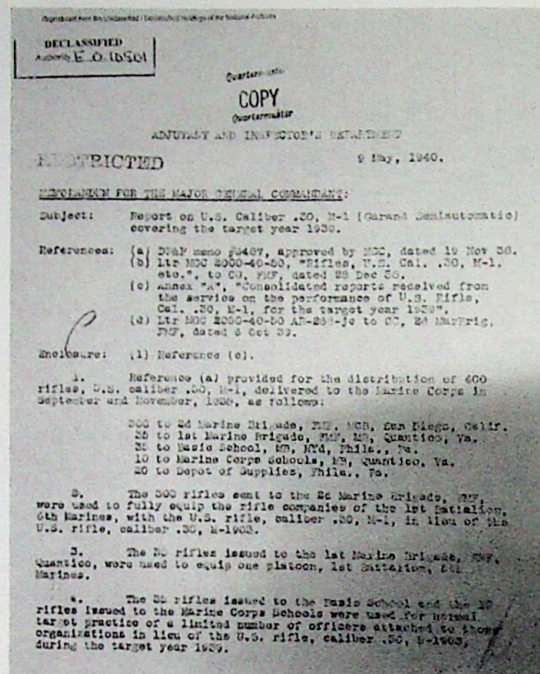
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-17

This report is eight pages long and details many tests and findings. "It is further recommended that a copy of this report, together with the enclosure, be forwarded to the Chief Of Ordnance, U.S. Army, for his information.

The following report and references is a total of 27 pages. The report includes data on specific serial numbers of rifles and their test reports



Footnotes in the firing report shows that there were many malfunctions that were repaired, fixed, or had a change of parts. Some of the gas plugs were out of alignment with the bore, rear sights slipped during firing, there were cracked hand guards, multiple bursts, and several taken out as temporarily out of service. The USMC personnel altered and fixed parts during the tests.



Above: The report for the 1939 firing year and the USMC rifles used in the tests. The starting date of this effort was 19 November 1938. There was a memo 5487 and a letter dated 28 December 1938. The United States Marine Corps was very serious about testing the new M-1 rifle and insuring that its design and operation was qualified to operate in the field during combat.

The tests included the M-1903 rifle and the M-1918 Browning Automatic Rifle. All rifles were tested side by side to insure that combat troops were going to get the best rifle available.

The tests were very tough and resulted in breakage of parts including stocks and hand guards. The results were many suggested improvements that lead to the future Gasport design.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-18

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5. Paragraph 8 of reference (b) directed that complete reports be made to the Major General Commandant on 30 June 1939 and upon completion of the training year 1939, covering the results obtained in training with the M-1 rifle. These reports have been briefed, paraphrased, and consolidated in Annex "A", enclosed herewith. It is believed that the following conclusions can be drawn from the various reports submitted under the following headings:

(a) Total ammunition fired.

244,645 cartridges, ball, caliber .30, M-1, were fired through the M-1 rifle during the target year 1939. This total does not include ammunition expended in this rifle during the Calcebra maneuvers participated in by the 1st Marine Brigade, MMF, during the early part of 1940 although extracts from a report submitted at the completion of such maneuvers are included in reference (c).

(b) Rounds fired from each rifle.

253 individual rifles were fired throughout the year. The least number of rounds fired through any single rifle was 19 and the maximum 2425, the average being 639.6 per rifle.

(c) Class of stoppages, causes, and corrective measures for each rifle; and

(d) Malfunctions and broken parts for each rifle.

Because of the obvious difficulty of definitely determining the difference between a stoppage and a malfunction these two sub-paragraphs, included in the reports as required by reference (b), have been combined under one heading.

Throughout the reports there are repeated instances of "numerous" stoppages or malfunctions reported which were not specifically enumerated or listed to any individual rifle. One report specifically states that the stoppages and malfunctions reported therein occurred only during the record firing of 1 September 1939, and does not include malfunctions which may have occurred during the preliminary firing. It can therefore be assumed that the stoppages and malfunctions included under reference (d) are incomplete.

There were, however, 131 stoppages, malfunctions, or broken parts definitely reported (disregarding gas cylinder blast out of line, cracked stocks, etc.) which would result in the rifle being temporarily or permanently out of action in the field, or one (1) such stoppage or malfunction for every 1859 rounds fired. 76 of the 253 rifles fired had some stoppage or malfunction which would have put the rifles temporarily or permanently out of action in the field. This is equivalent to 22.1% or one (1) out of every 4.5 rifles.

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6. All M-1 rifles numbered serially from 2400 to 4100 (95% of those in the Marine Corps) were manufactured between the dates of August 26 and September 23, 1938. During the fall of 1939 a major modification of the rifle was effected by the Ordnance Department, U.S. Army, which changed the design of the barrel, gas cylinder and gas plug assemblies. The Marine Corps has two of these modified rifles undergoing test at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, California (reference (d)). The result of these tests has not yet been reported. Mass production of the new design will be started at Springfield Armory about 15 May 1940.

7. The new design will eliminate the eccentricity of the axis of the bore and gas plug, and should eliminate the play in the front sight base, defects which were reported in reference (c). The accuracy of the rifle should be considerably improved by these changes in design. A limited number of minor modifications have also been incorporated in the weapon to improve its functional characteristics. Just what effect these changes will have on the accuracy and suitability of the rifle as a replacement for the M-1903 rifle for combat purposes can be determined only by additional tests and experience. It can be stated, however, that the M-1 rifle now or shortly to be manufactured is essentially a different weapon from that manufactured eighteen months ago, and that further modifications can be expected as the necessity therefor becomes apparent.

8. It is recommended that a copy of this memorandum, together with the enclosure, be sent to the Commanding Officers of those organizations which have M-1 rifles assigned to them, to the Depot Quartermaster, 1100 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa., to the Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Team Detachment, and to the Bureau of Ordnance, U.S. Navy, for their information.

9. It is further recommended that a copy of this report, together with the enclosure, be forwarded to the Chief of Ordnance, U.S. Army, for his information.

Above: Page 2 of the Major General Commandant document. The report outlined a positive finding that showed the deficiencies and problems. It was a finding that was sent to all military units in the USMC and other services as well as the war Department. The M-1 Garand rifle was used through the Viet Nam war and beyond. The diligent testing, solving design problems, and expert engineering lead to one of world's greatest rifles.

The following letter is a copy of the last page of the target year 1939 report from the Adjutant and Inspector's Department dated 9 May 1940.

The final page made the following comments and concludes that the M-1 rifle will be upgraded and made to replace the Model 1903 Springfield.

The new design will fix the gas plug and the bore axis problem. The accuracy will be improved. The next manufacturing will be a different weapon from those tested eighteen months ago. Further modifications will be made as necessary.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-19

FRANKFORD ARSENAL, PHILADELPHIA, PA. TEST OF TWO GAS TRAP RIFLES SERIAL NUMBER 35091 AND SERIAL NUMBER 35093

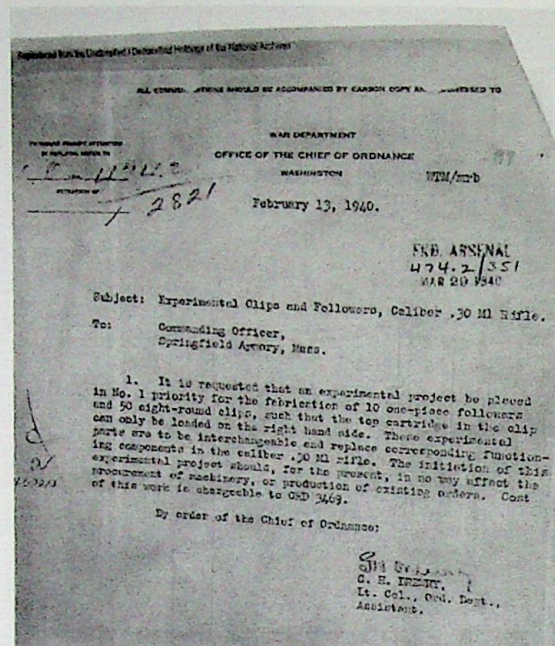
M1 Rifles number 35091 and 35093 were brought to Frankford Arsenal by Colonel James L. Hatcher. Another rifle serial number 6906 belonging to Frankford Arsenal was also tested. Test firing was accomplished with HIGH VELOCITY "A. P. Cal.30 assembled in 1938 and gaged by number 577355. The average pressure was 50,460 psi, and the velocity was 3143. The Army message was signed by Lt. Col. J. Kirk, Ord. Dept., USA.

The experimental project was ordered by the Chief Of Ordnance and signed by Lt. Colonel G. H. Drewry, Assistant, Ordnance Department. Letter date was February 13, 1940.

A major effort of this experiment was the experimental use of a new follower and new clips for the M1 rifle. The rifles were issued with the clips to solve jamming with the 7th round, and ejection errors.

The followers and clips are very scarce and relatively unknown to collectors. There were several other clips used to correct loading problems. All had major tests and programs. Data on these programs are planned to be in additional articles.

Above Right: Number 1 Priority project order to develop a new follower and test with new clips that had the top cartridge loaded on the right side.

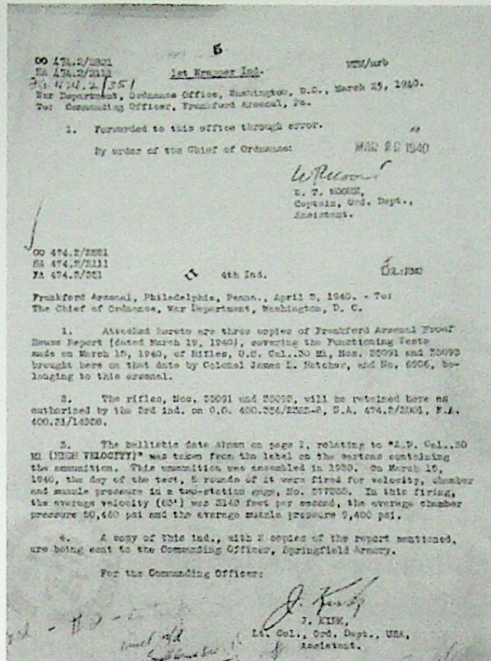


The new model M1 went through many tests and evaluations during its first years of development and introduction to military units. The Model 1903 Springfield was well developed and in use for many years. The M1 was a new design, semi-automatic with a larger eight round magazine. Many tests were designed to make sure the new rifle was to be an accepted standard.

The following letter outlines many of the U.S. Army tests made to insure that the new M1 rifle would hold up as best as possible. There were many changes with new parts and designs before the Gas Port design was made.

The letter specifies serial number 35091 and 35093. SRS has searched and has not found more data or condition on number 35091. The original tests parts for both rifles have not been found.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-20



Above: Copy of Frankford documentation showing M1 rifles serial number 35091 and 35093. Signed by: Lt. Col. J. Kirk.

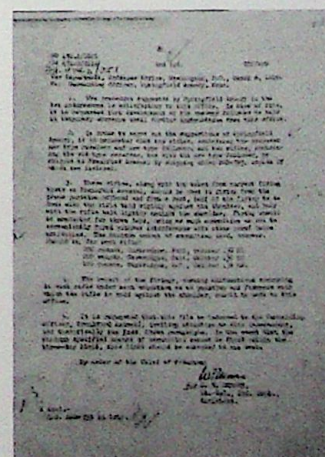
The War Department, Ordnance Office, Washington, D.C. informed the Commanding Officer, Springfield Armory that they were satisfied with the Springfield Armory test procedure with 200 rounds of ammunition for each rifle. The results showed the malfunctions from each rifle and the conditions of the testing. It was signed off by Lt. Colonel G.H. Dewry. An additional brief provided test results of three new followers that were tested with 5,000 rounds of ammunition for one and another with 10,000 rounds of ammunition. It referred to modifications to M1 receivers that were tested at Springfield Armory. It was signed by Lt. Colonel T. J. Hayes Commanding Officer, Ordnance Department.

There were many firings used in testing the rifles. They included many rapid and burst

firings with samples of firing tests conducted using burst rates with 12 clips of 8 rounds each with all clips ejected and excellent operating results. Serial number 35053 and 35091 had a burst rate of 32 rounds was made using Cal..30 A. P. H.V. Similar burst rates were made with 48, 64, and 104 rounds. Rifle tests also included the addition of serial number 6906.

A burst rate of 96 rounds was fired by Creston F. Hallowell, Assistant Proof technician. (There was one 7th round stoppage).

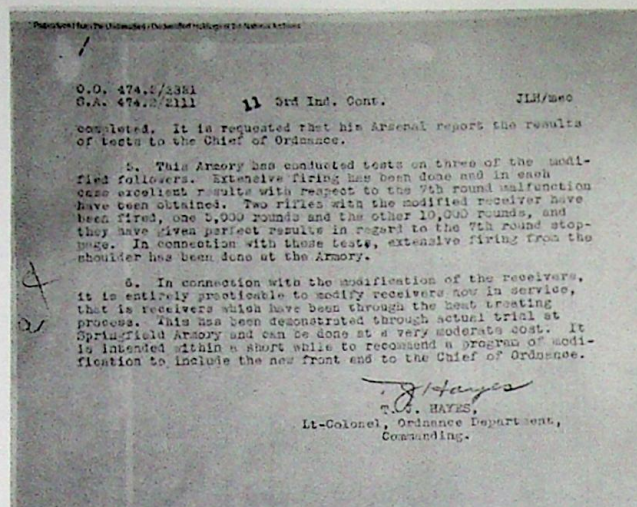
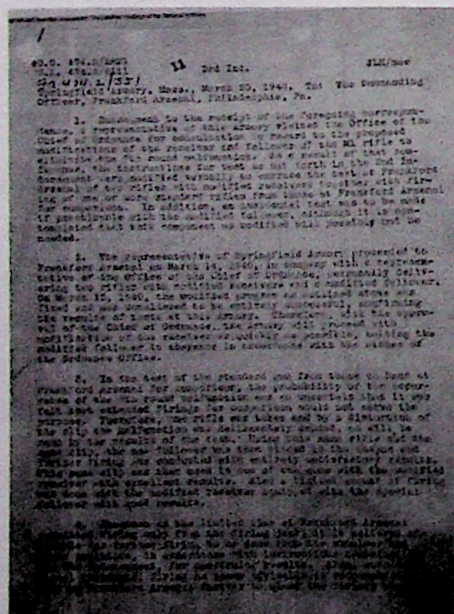
The following letter signed by Lt. Colonel Drewry states that the one way follower is to be held in temporary abeyance until further instructions are sent from the office of Commanding Officer, Springfield Armory. The rifles were to be taken to the range and fired with 200 rounds of ball ammunition, Cal..30 M1 and 200 rounds of M2 ammunition. There would be another 100 rounds of A.P. fired. Results of the firing and other data were to be sent to Lt. Colonel Drewry's office. The letter was dated March 6, 1940. It showed an example of heavy tests



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-21

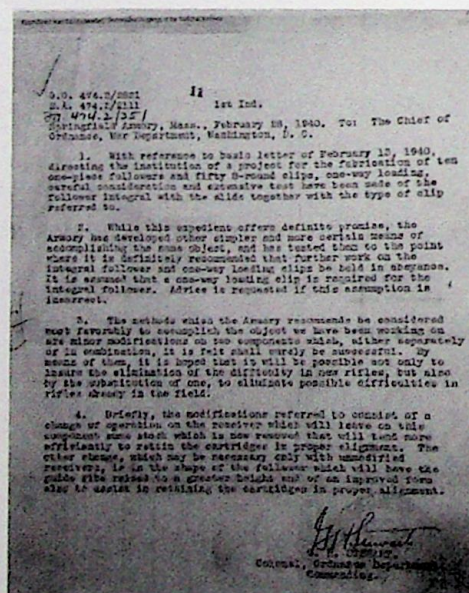
accomplished by the U.S. Army. Test rifle number 35093 is one of the few rifles that have survived to date. We have no data on the condition and whereabouts of serial number 35091. Number 35093 is now at the CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program). The rifle does not have the experimental follower or the clip. Number 35093 would be an excellent rifle for a museum or other way to allow Garand collectors the opportunity to see a test rifle. It is unknown if it will be offered for sale or go to auction.

Below: A letter was sent from Springfield Amory to Commanding Officer, Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia dated March 20, 1940. There were proposed modifications of the receiver and follower to eliminate the 7th round stoppage. The tests were proposed to be with the standard rifle that belonged to Frankford arsenal and the two test guns. Page 2 follows and shows that three followers were tested and included 5000 rounds of ammunition for one rifle and 10,000 rounds from the other rifle.



Above: The letter continues with items five and six and shows data on 7th round stoppage and the modification of the receiver. It was signed and includes the signature of Lt. Colonel T.J. Hayes.

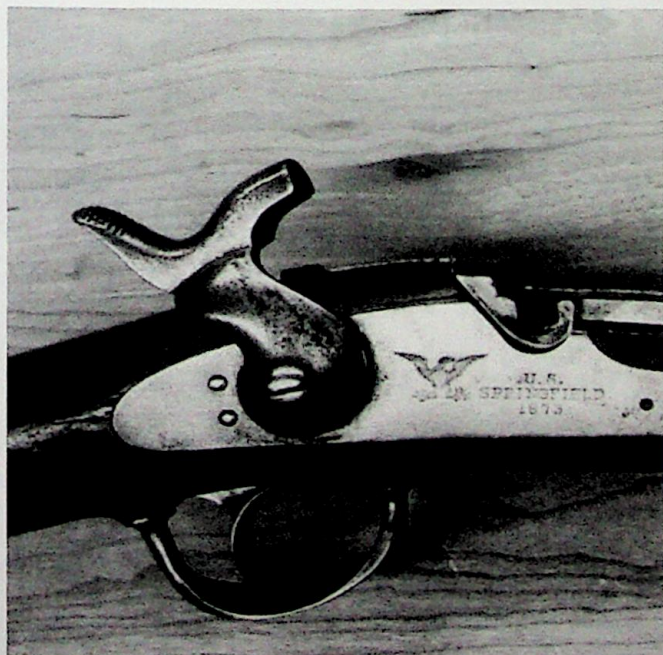
Below: February 28, 1940 letter with additional comments on the follower and modifications.



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-22

**Model 1873 SPRINGFIELD
SADDLE RING CARBINE
SERIAL NUMBER 14008 (Part 1)**

Serial number 18006 was issued to Company F of the 7th Cavalry. The carbine is in original condition with 22 inch barrel, short stock with long wrist, 1873 carbine rear sight with headless screws, 1873 carbine barrel band with early attached swivel, 1873 lock assembly, coarse checkered hammer, 1873 carbine trigger guard with smooth trigger, and saddle ring assembly. This original carbine has all of the early features and shows no signs of alterations or upgrades.



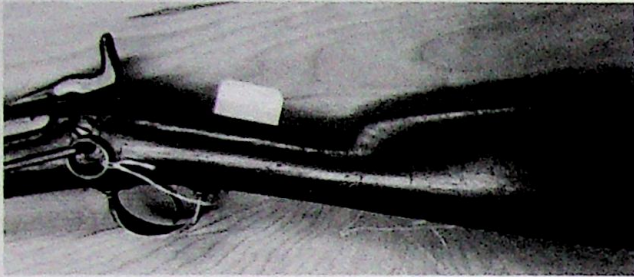
Note Part 2. Research is continuing and will be in the next issue with all available

copies of issue documents and Army personnel, personnel data, and any battle information.

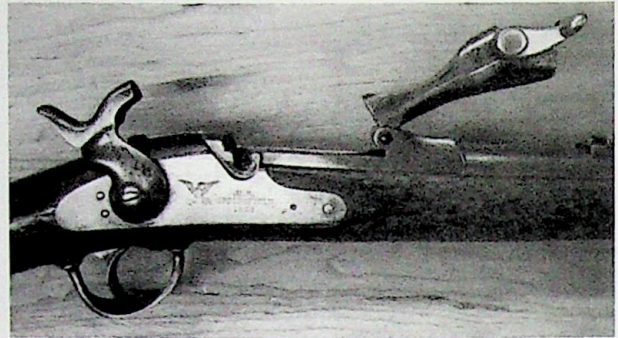
Below: Serial number 18006 is shown on the early narrow receiver with the ejector pin and the saddle ring bar on the left of the stock. There are no signs of the serial number being obliterated as was done on some carbines by American Indians who captured some weapons.



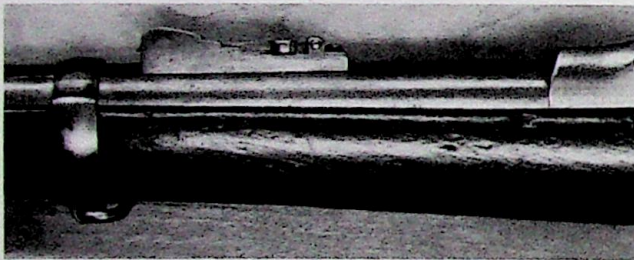
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-23



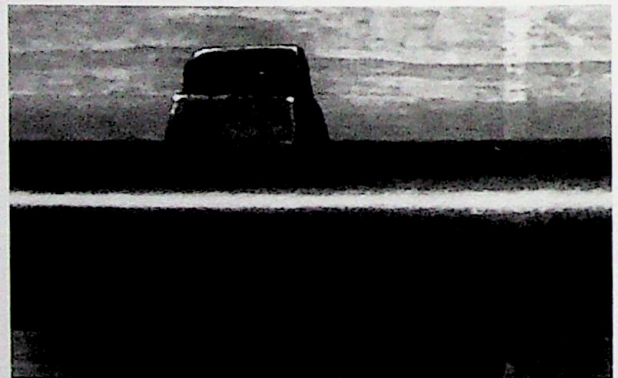
Above: The 1873 stock is shown with the long wrist and short comb. The early hammer is shown with saddle ring assembly and the carbine trigger guard.



Above: Right side of carbine with early coarse checkering on hammer, 1873 marked lock plate, high arched block, block latch assembly. The carbine has the correct features with no swivel and screw on the trigger guard.



Above: The left side of 18006 is shown with the Model 1873 rear sight with headless screws and early barrel band. the barrel has no markings of eagle and vp as found on later dates.

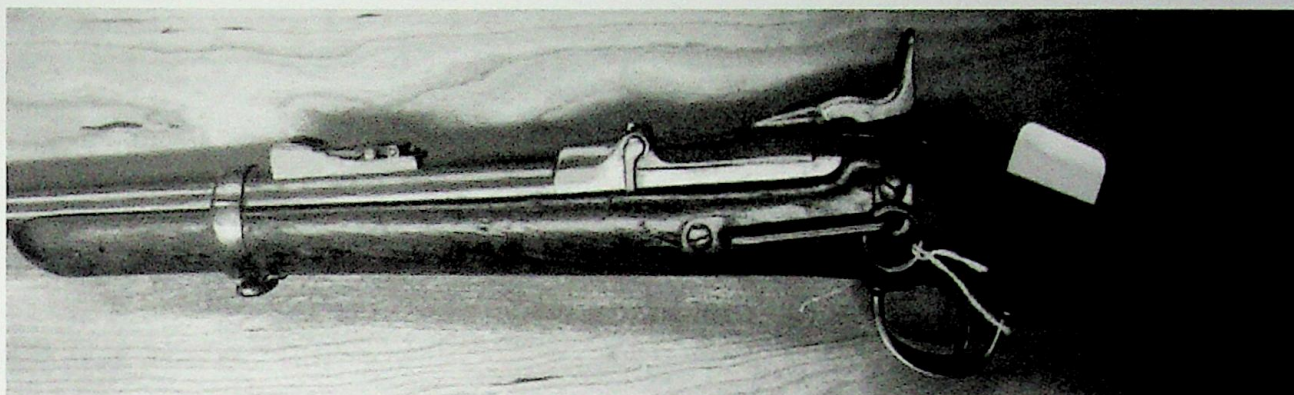


Above: The left side of the front of the barrel of serial number 18006 is shown with the Model 1873 front sight. The original sight is shown with the fixed base, sight blade and pin. The barrel can be easily checked with a 45/70 bayonet that will fit over the muzzle correctly. A cut-down rifle barrel will not fit.



Above: Barrel band with early swivel and original stock tip. The photo shows original stock condition with small swivel dents.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 159-24



Above: The 1873 Springfield carbine is shown with the left side of the stock, barreled action and fittings.

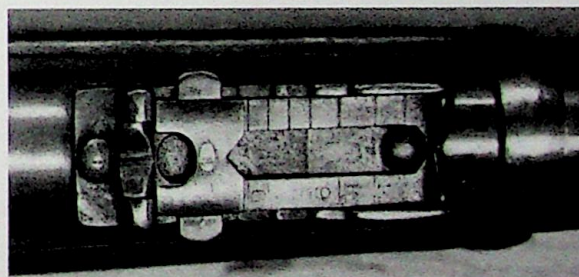
Any original 1873 carbine with a serial number less than 50,000 is very rare in original condition. Data on serial number 18006 is available from the United States Archives. It was issued to the 7th Cavalry and has notation of a date of February 1, 1876. The second part of this article will be published in the next issue of the U.S. Martial Arms Collector magazine.

SRS is working on obtaining data to confirm the history and will provide copies of all data that is available from the U.S. Archives.

The following are samples of 1873 carbines in the SRS data base.

18089	73C	051676	10TH CAV
18137	73C	100179	CAPTURED
18141	73C	100179	CAPTURED

18202	73C	100179	CAPTURED
18211	73C	042077	SURRENDERED
18211	73C	060678	TO FT LINCOLN
18230	73C	012978	FT KEOGH



Above: The 1873 carbine rear sight is shown from the top with original slotless screws and correct graduations. The screws have not been upgraded or changed. It is possible that the sight has never been removed.

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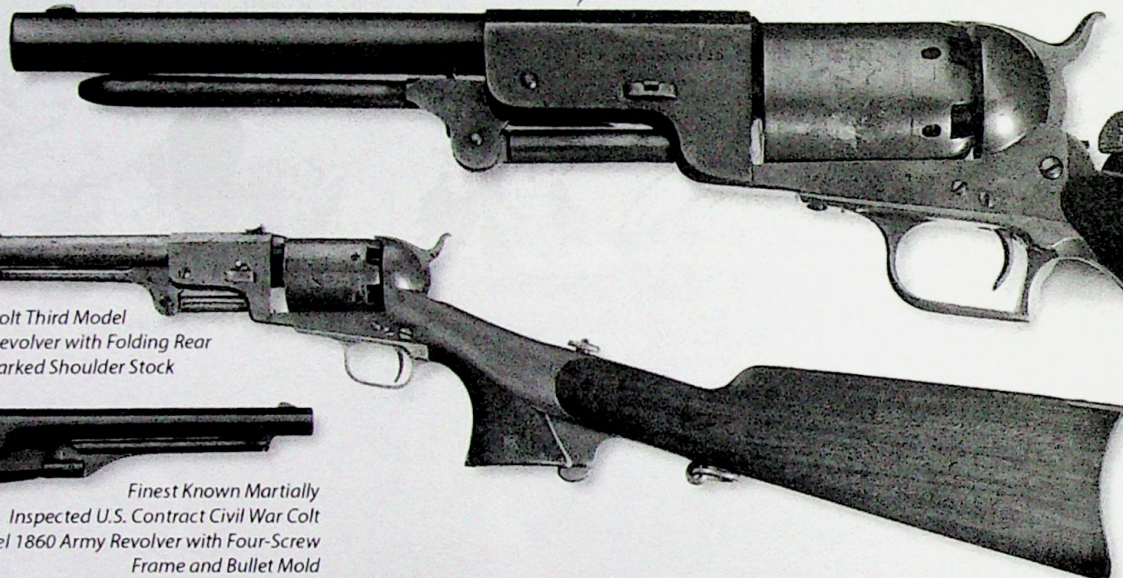
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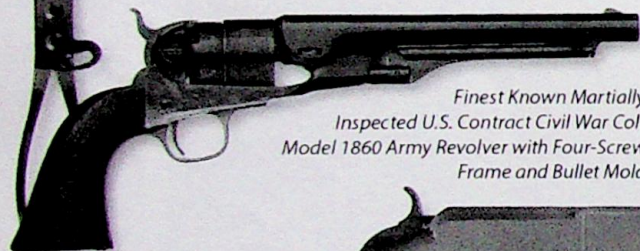
Iconic, Exceptional and Well
Documented U.S. Military Contract
E Company No. 120 U.S. Colt Model
1847 Walker Percussion Revolver:

*The Last Martial Colt
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Samuel Walker



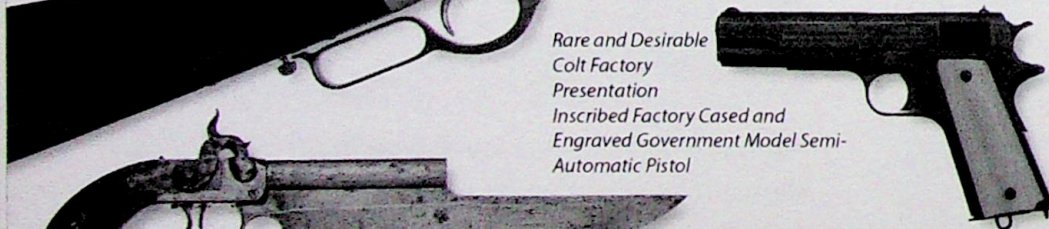
Scarce U.S. Contract Colt Third Model
Dragoon Percussion Revolver with Folding Rear
Sight and Martially Marked Shoulder Stock



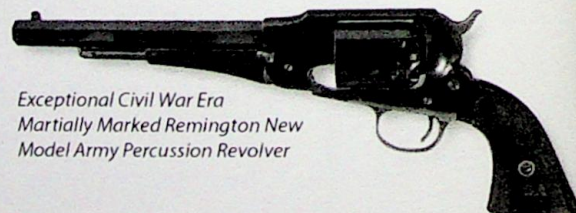
Finest Known Martially
Inspected U.S. Contract Civil War Colt
Model 1860 Army Revolver with Four-Screw
Frame and Bullet Mold



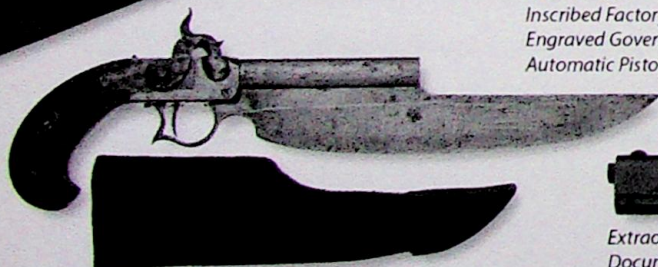
Exceptional Historic Identified 3rd U.S. Veteran Volunteer Infantry Issued, Martially Inspected New
Haven Arms Company Henry Lever Action Rifle with Sling



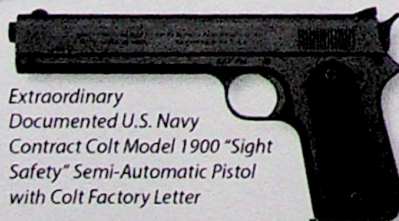
Rare and Desirable
Colt Factory
Presentation
Inscribed Factory Cased and
Engraved Government Model Semi-
Automatic Pistol



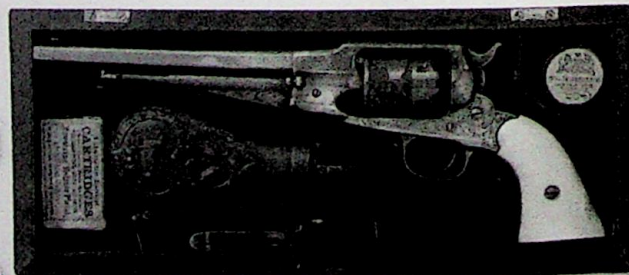
Exceptional Civil War Era
Martially Marked Remington New
Model Army Percussion Revolver



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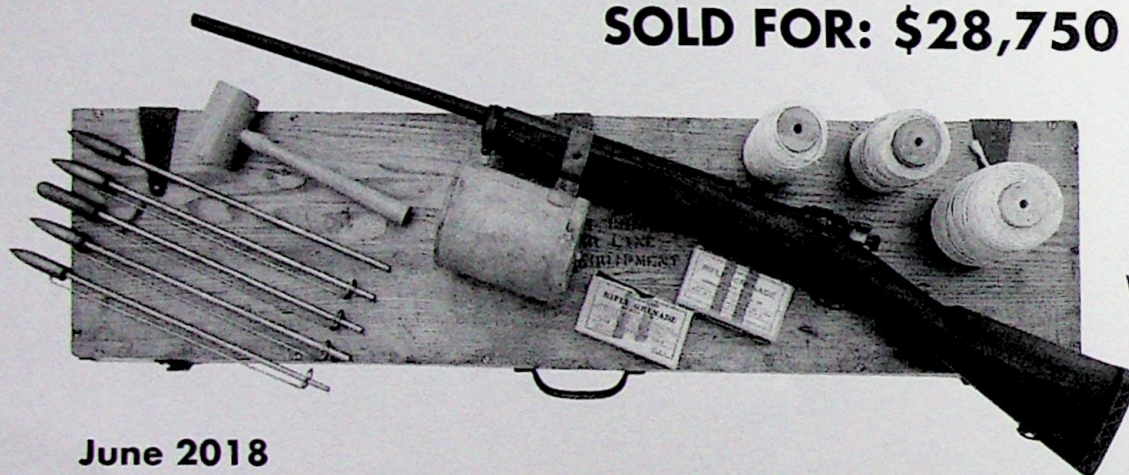
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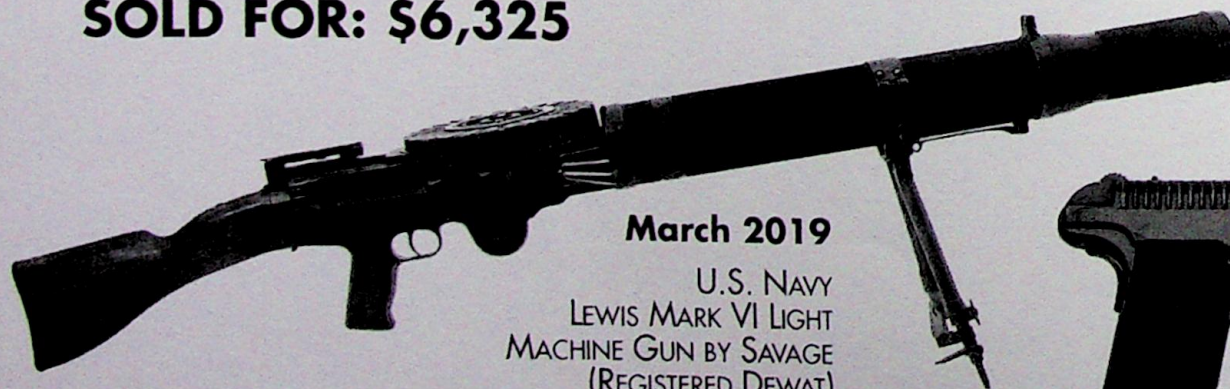
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