

Featured Rifle

By Scott Duff



SA 524212



The M1 Garand World War II, Chapter 7 (Collecting the M1 Rifle), recommended that collectors define their collecting goals. Taking my own advice a few years before I penned those words, I decided in late 1987 that one of my M1 rifle collection goals was to own one Springfield Armory rifle from each year of production from 1939 to 1945. A further criterion was that none could bear British Proof stamps. Not that I have anything against them, in fact I owned one when I set down this goal, but I wanted this grouping of seven rifles to represent typical arms with which U.S. soldiers or Marines could have been armed during World War II. I also concluded that originality was more important than condition. While seeking nearly unissued condition rifles, I would be satisfied with a well-used example, as long as it was 100 percent original. My search for these rifles would very likely take years, and that was fine, as I could not afford all of them at once anyway.

So the search for seven rifles began. The first one found was a well-used, but completely original May, 1943 rifle. A 1944 and a 1945 rifle were next to follow, and in August of 1994 the nearly unimaginable happened: a friend offered to sell me the Holy Grail of Garand collecting, a Gas Trap rifle made in May 1939. I knew that this one would be expensive. The price gave me pause, but I took the advice of Larry Kaufman, one of my collecting mentors, and sold what could be replaced to get the money to buy what I may never have another opportunity to purchase. This is some of the best advice that I ever received about collecting. Larry's advice bears committing to long-term memory.

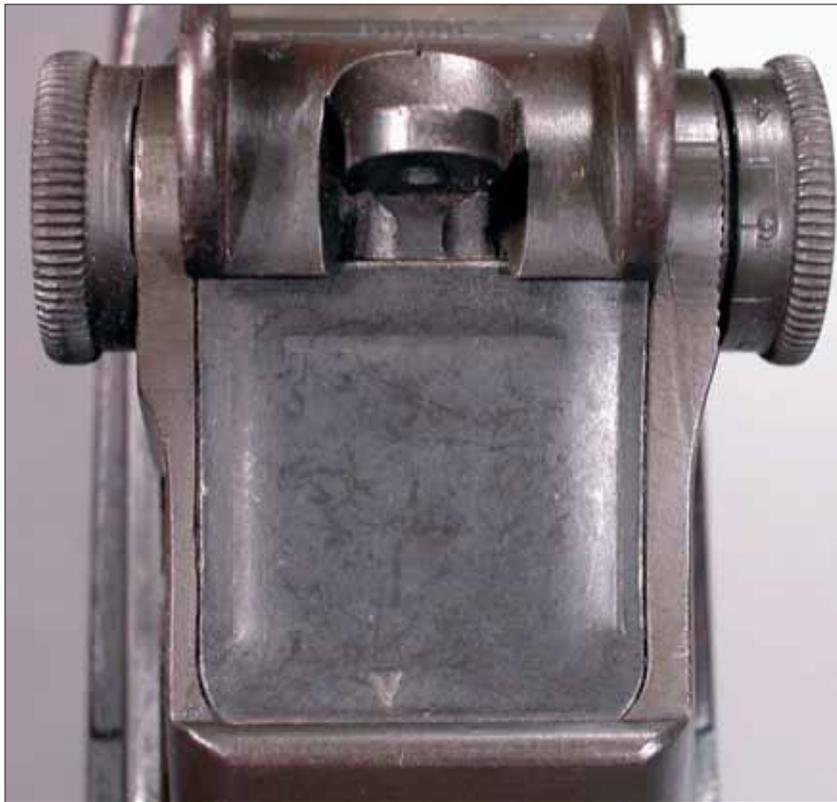
In slightly less than seven years I had acquired four of the seven rifles on my list; not too bad. A year and a half later I acquired the 1941 rifle that was the Featured Rifle in the June 2005 issue of the Journal. Only two more to go, this wasn't so hard, and the toughest one was behind me. I knew that an original 1940 Gas Port rifle would also be a difficult one to find, as these rifles are

every bit as tough as a Gas Trap, but I was patient. At least the 1942 rifle should be simple, right? Wrong. In mid-1997, another surprise, an original late summer of 1940 Gas Port was offered to me, and the two rarest M1s were behind me. Now all that remained was to find that elusive 1942 rifle. I had this bagged. Wrong again.

So far, I had been patient, but I wanted that 1942 SA, and I wanted it badly. The month didn't matter, nor the cartouche, either GHS or EMcF was fine with me.

I was not even overly concerned about condition, but I wanted one and I wanted it now. Unfortunately, it was not happening. Nearly another two years passed, and still no 1942 SA. Then it happened: I received a phone call from my friend Walt Kuleck, who was well aware of my search for a '42, telling me to contact a dealer in Florida who may have the rifle that I was seeking. A call to the dealer revealed that he was not very familiar with M1s, but his responses to my questions convinced me that he did, in fact, have exactly what I needed to complete my collection of seven World War II Springfield Armory Garand rifles. An FFL and check was sent that day. I was as high as a kite! When the package arrived I could hardly contain myself as I opened the package. Removing the bubble wrap, the first thing I saw was the cartouche and Ordnance emblem. My first reaction was disappointment, and then anger set in. This had to be a fake cartouche! No real one could possibly look this good. Wrong again. (Are you noticing a trend here on my being right so seldom?) After fully unwrapping and examining the rifle, I sat in my shop stunned. This was not only *the* 1942 rifle I had been seeking, it was the best condition early 1942, non-British Proof M1 that I had ever seen. I have seen more than a few, just none that were for sale. In 1999, 11 years later, my quest was complete: I had one of each SA M1 from 1939 to 1942.

Springfield Amory M1 rifle serial number 524212 was probably manufactured in March of 1942. The accompanying data sheet and photographs provide the interesting details of the rifle. Comparison with the data sheet on the 1941 rifle that was published in the June 2005 issue of the *GCA Journal* provides a good comparison of the differences. A few details bear highlighting. The 1941-42 period was an era of numerous significant-to-collectors changes, with great overlaps in usage of some older versus newer components. By March, 1942 the design of the firing pin had been changed and was no longer fully round in cross section. While the short pinion was still in use, the type 1 lock bar had been adopted and appears to have been used for many months simultaneously with the earlier flush nut. In addition, the design change from a checked to a knurled elevation cap had taken place. Both checked and knurled elevation caps were used for quite a few months. This rifle features a flush nut and knurled elevation cap. The rear sight cover has the same style of indented ribs with a character stamped on it as the 1941 rifles. These features are discernable in the photographs.



Two other features that underwent changes in this era and show lengthy overlaps are the size of the Ordnance emblem and length of the stock's barrel channel. While both large and small Ordnance emblems may be found in this period, this rifle has the smaller diameter type. Both long and short barrel channels may also be found in this period. This rifle has the short channel. The duration of the overlaps on both features is unclear, but is certainly quite a number of months. Like the 1941 rifles, SA 1942 rifles of this era have an op rod catch, hammer spring housing, and hammer spring plunger that are

devoid of finish and appear pewter in color.

When my search began in 1987, I never thought that the 1942 rifle would be the last one I would find. I am convinced that starting with an overall list shortened the fulfillment of this goal. If your luck is like mine, and if we pass on something that we may want, but just not right now, we cannot later seem to find another one. The moral of the story, and the reason that I made that recommendation in my book, is that if you have a *wish list* and are willing to buy targets of opportunity instead of trying to force a set sequence of acquisitions, you will most likely achieve your goals quicker than would otherwise have been likely. The search may occasionally be frustrating, but it's what makes collecting so satisfying.





This Data Sheet provided by Scott A. Duff Publications
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SERIAL NUMBER 524212
 MANUFACTURER SA

DATA SHEET GARAND RIFLES

RIFLE TYPE	<u>M1 MARCH 1942</u>	<u>YES</u> original?
Other marks and location, of remarks		
<u>REP 25A</u>		
<u>D 28291-17</u> O shape		

photo or remarks

BARREL (side)

(top under handguard): TE=1.75 MW=1.25 chamber bright? YES
 remarks: BORE IS 1 IN EX. COND.

SOCKET	<u>D28287-2 SA</u>	firing pin	<u>LATE</u>
	<u>RESB</u>	Extractor	<u>BLUED</u>

REAR STUDY	<u>LATE</u>
Aperture	<u>1941-42 TYPE RIBS V</u>
Cover	<u>LATE</u>
Base	<u>SHORT</u>
Pinion	<u>KNURLED</u>
Windage Knob	<u>KNURLED</u>
Elev Knob	<u>FLUSH NUT</u>

FRONT SIGHT	
width of ears	<u>NARR.</u>
cup over screw?	<u>YES</u>
Screw	

GAS CYLINDER	<u>NARROW BASE</u>
LOCK W/SHAW	<u>RD. TOP W/CHAMP.</u>
LOCK SCREW	<u>SOLID</u>

TRIGGER HOUSE	<u>D28290-5-SA</u>	pad:	hole:
TRIGGER GUARD	<u>C-46025-3-SA</u>		<u>SPRING HOUSING NO FIN.</u>
TRIGGER	<u>LATE</u>		<u>GUIDE W/WINGS</u>
HAMMER	<u>C46008-2SA</u>		<u>NO FIN.</u>
SAFETY	<u>C46015-6SA W/HOLE</u>	REMARKS:	

FOLLOWER	<u>LATE B</u>
slide	
BULLET GUIDE	<u>FORGED</u>
OP ROD CATCH	<u>LATE-NO FINISH</u>
FOLLOWER ARM	<u>LATE</u>
FOLLOWER ROD	<u>SHORT FORK</u>
OP ROD SPRING	<u>LATE</u>
LOWER BAND	<u>ARCHED</u>
CLIP LATCH	<u>RD. FRONT</u>

OP ROD	<u>D25382 3 SA No</u>
	relief cut?

STOCK	<u>SA GHS</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>SML. ORD. EMBLEM</u>	REAR HAND GUARD	<u>clip: GROOVED</u>
	<u>SHT. CHL.</u>		<u>op rod clearance cut:</u>
REMARKS	<u>(P)</u>	FRONT HAND GUARD	

Ferrule:	
Spacer:	

BUTT PLATE	<u>1941-42 TYPE</u>	SLING	
Long Screw			
Short Screw			

FERRULE	<u>STAMPED LG. HOLE</u>	SLING SWIVEL	
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PURCHASE DATE	PRICE
PURCHASE FROM	
VALUE	DATE
VALUE	DATE
VALUE	DATE

OTHER DATA OF SKIPPER EQUIPMENT	
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Instructions on reverse