



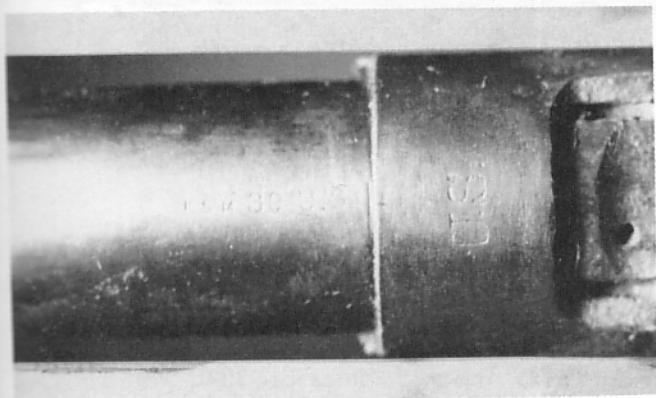
From the collection of Raymond Bell Jr.

Standard muskets have 28 inch barrels, sling swivels and trapdoor buttplates.

Winchester had great difficulty in getting adoption of the model 95 by the Army. Upon the recommendation of General Miles, Commander of the Army, an order for 10,000 muskets was placed with Winchester in May of 1898. The Ordnance Corps was having difficulty in repairs and maintenance of the large variety of arms already in use by the armed forces at that time; the demand for arms and ammunition was heavy due to demands of the Spanish-American War.

When the component parts and muskets had been inspected by the army inspectors at the Winchester factory, a large number had been rejected for unsubstantial reasons. After some discussion, the 10,000 muskets passed inspection. In 1899, one hundred of the muskets were issued in the Philippines, but the Ordnance Board there gave an unfavorable report and the one hundred muskets were returned to the United States and were sold to a Boston arms dealer. The remaining 9,900 muskets were sold to a New York dealer who shipped them to Cuba in 1906.

Arms which were part of the U. S. musket contract have the letters "U. S." on top of the receiver at the juncture of the barrel and receiver. Those arms which did not pass the ordnance inspection will have the inspector's initials K.S.M. in a number of places on the gun. Various parts which had not passed the final inspection but which had inspector's initials and which were serviceable were used for some sporting models. Calibers 30 Army and 303 British were offered for standard muskets. The 303 British caliber muskets are rare. Other calibers offered for rifles would be chambered for muskets on special order. The N.R.A. model muskets are discussed elsewhere in this chapter.

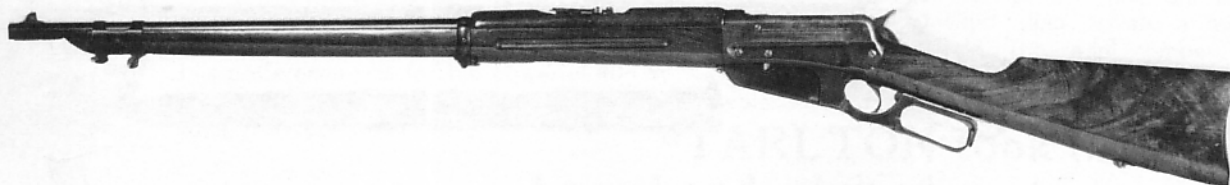


Visible here is the caliber marking, inspector's initials and U. S. marking found on models 95 made for the U. S. Ordnance Department.



Winchester manufactured and marked the bayonets for the 95 and the Lee straight pull models. The standard blade length for the American pattern bayonets was eight and one half inches.

This bayonet is the type found with late model rifles, muskets and shotguns which were provided with bayonets after 1898. Earlier models had the longer bayonets as shown in the chapters on earlier guns.



From the collection of Dr. Mason W. Wolf

Extras are rarely found on muskets. Fancy burl walnut is an extra on number 25,796. Buttplates of models 95 accommodate the pull-through "U.S. Government Cleaner" as described and pictured in the chapter on Extras and Special Order Features. All models 95 carbines and muskets were provided with these cleaners but few have survived.