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## The M1903A4

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)



The M1903 Springfield was in service to the United States Military from 1903 to 1975. For its first thirty years it was carried as a standard service rifle by infantrymen in the US Army and United States Marine Corps, followed by another thirty service years as a sniper rifle. In the civilian world the rifle is popular in marksman competitions, drill teams, and with hunters.

Chambered in 30.03 and 30.06, the most popular of rounds being the latter. The rifle has a bolt action and is capable of carrying five rounds (though there were some that carried more). With a rate of fire between ten to fifteen rounds per minute, it was not the fastest, but it could deliver quite a punch at one thousand yards. Chambered in 30.06, and having such a range of effective fire, lead to the rifle being popular in the hands of US snipers.



The variant carried by snipers during World War II. The “03A4” was the exact same as the standard version except for the issued/attached optic (scope). The rifle was equipped with standard iron sights but was typically issued with one of three scopes - the Redfield or Weaver (US Army) and a Unertl (USMC). Regardless, the weakness of this rifle for use by a sniper was the optic of the time period... the 30.06 round was capable of far longer ranges than the scope or human eye.

The M1903A4 earned due respect on the battlefields of World War II in both theaters, European and Pacific.

The Pennsylvania Military Museum has an M1903A4 on exhibit as part of the permanent collection.