

RESTRICTEDITEM 19296PROGRAM ITEM

U. S. RIFLE, CALIBER .30, M1903A4 (Snipers) - Recommended for Adoption
White/mfh
December 9, 1942

From: Subcommittee on Small Arms
To: The Ordnance Committee
Subject: U. S. RIFLE, CALIBER .30, M1903A4 (Snipers) - Recommended
for Adoption.

1. REFERENCES:

a. O.O. 473.85/537

2. DISCUSSION:

a. Urgent requests have been received from overseas units for rifles equipped with telescopes for use by snipers. As a result of tests conducted by the Infantry Board, and manufacturing investigations conducted by the Ordnance Department, several M1903 rifles have been altered and fitted with commercial type telescopes.

b. After examination of the Infantry Board Report and telescopes submitted by the Ordnance Department, Headquarters, Army Ground Forces with the concurrence of Headquarters, Services of Supply has recommended the following:

(1) "After weighing these considerations, and in the light of urgent requirements for a sniper's rifle for immediate issue to the field forces, it is recommended:

(a) "That the hunting type of telescope, as exemplified by the Weaver 330-C, be adopted as standard for the Sniper's rifle.

(b) "That the reticle be of the cross hair type, with medium weight cross hair, subtending not more than one minute of angle.

(c) "That the telescope be equipped with windage and elevation knobs similar to the weaver 330-C, and which indicates amounts of change by clicks.

(d) "That the telescope be mounted above the receivers of the M1903 or M1903A1 Rifle initially, for immediate production.

- (e) "That the mount be fixed and permanent.
- (f) "That the rifles used be especially selected for accuracy and smoothness of operation, and with type "C" stocks if available; and that the bolt handles be so remodeled as to eliminate interference with the sight.
- (g) "That a project be undertaken at once to develop a side (left) mount for the sniper's telescope on the M1 rifle, but that this development be not allowed to interfere with production of M1903 Sniper's rifles.
- (2) "It is recommended that the combination of the telescope recommended above, paragraph (1) a, and the M1903 or M1903A1 Rifle, whichever is selected, be adopted standard as a Sniper's Rifle.
- (3) "The following basis of issue is recommended:

Per Infantry Rifle Company	10
Per Parachute Infantry Rifle Company	6
Per Glider Infantry Rifle Company	6
Per Mountain Infantry Rifle Company	6

6. The approval of Headquarters, Army Ground Forces has been given for the procurement of telescopes similar to the Weaver 330-C and the Lyman Alaskan telescopes.

Tentative War Department Specifications Rifle Telescope

Magnification	2½ power
Objective	.710" Maximum
Exit Pupil	6½ to 9 mm Max.
Eye Relief	3" to 5"
Focus	Exact
Parallax	Appreciable None (at 400 yds.)
Reflection	None, internal or otherwise
Color	Slight color not objectionable
Resolution	Definite at 400 yards
Reticule type	Medium fine cross wire
Length	12" maximum
Weight	11 ounces
Max. Diam	1½"
Tube Diam. O.D.	7/8" Max.
Water proof and Dustproof	As far as possible without making extra measures.

Tube	Highly resistant to moisture and dust and unaffected by temperatures from -40°F. to plus 120°F. Easy to clean and adjust in the field
Eye Piece Cell	Adjustable and retained in position after focusing, by a locking ring.
Elevation and Windage	Sufficiently large devices to take hold of, showing settings in both figures and "clicks."

Supplementary Leather and caps provided.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. In view of the foregoing this subcommittee recommends that:

(1) the Weaver 330-C, the Lyman Alaskan or any other rifle telescope meeting specifications set forth in paragraph 2c, of the discussion, be adopted for use by snipers.

(2) telescopes be fitted to M1903A1 rifles.

(3) these rifles have the iron sights removed and be equipped with altered safeties, bolt handles and mounts similar to the Jr. -S Redfield Mount.

(4) these rifles equipped with telescopes sights and altered as in paragraph (2) above, be known as U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1903A4 (Snipers).

b. It is also recommended that development of a side mounted telescope sight for the M1 Rifle be undertaken pursuant to instructions received from Army Ground Forces.

- "1. Name of article: Rifle, Caliber, .30, M1903A4 (Snipers)
2. Classification desired: Required Type, Adopted Type, Standard Article
3. The article is: A new type.
4. If to replace or supplement an adopted type, the recommendation as to reclassification of replaced or supplemented type is: does not apply
5. It is recommended that:
 - a. The supply Arm or Service to be charged with storage and issue of the item be the Ordnance Department
 If maintenance by other than the storage and issuing Arm or Service is desired, state reference to concurrence by proposed maintaining Arm or Service Does not apply

- b. The proposed item be classed as: current supply
- c. The following priority should be given: essential
- d. The following basis of issue be employed: 10 Per Infantry Rifle Co., 6 Per Parachute, Glider and Mountain Infantry Rifle Company.
- e. The following percentage be maintained for:
 - (1) The Zone of the Interior Same as Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903A1
 - (2) The Theater of Operations Same as Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903A1

6. The item has not been cleared for procurement by the Assistant Secretary of War.

The following apply only when submitting the item to the Assistant Secretary of War for procurement clearance:

- a. The item is for procurement in: Peace and War
 - b. For an item to be procured for War, sources of supply have been reached as the result thereof. References: W. R. Weaver Co., Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Redfield Gun Sight Corp., Remington Arms Co.
 - c. The Procurement of the item in War:
 - (1) Will not affect the procurement as a whole.
 - (2) Will not interfere with the procurement of other items already standardized.
 - d. It is contemplated procuring the item from: Commercial Sources
 - e. If to be manufactured at Government manufacturing establishments only, sufficient facilities do/do not exist for Peace and War Production: Does not apply.
 - f. If to be procured from commercial sources, the characteristics of the item are not such as to restrict its procurement to one source of supply.
 - g. Unit cost based on latest procurement \$101.80
 - h. Estimated cost in quantity procurement \$90.00
 - i. Strategical materials used in construction of item: Optical Glass
7. Reference to reports indicating that the using Arms concur in the proposed action: Concurrences shown by signatures on attached reports.
8. The item does possess all required military characteristics. If not, it is lacking in the following respects: _____
9. Following is statement of status of related equipment: None
10. The item is to be for: Immediate procurement and issue
11. Effect of recommended action on the procurement problem: None

12. Effect of recommend Action on cost: None

Action by: Small Arms Development Branch, Technical Division

Report approved by Ordnance Committee.

Classification: Unclassified.

Approval by higher authority is required, and was given informally at the meeting.