

Production and Serial Numbers Table

M1903 "Modified" and M1903A3

Remington Arms Company - World War II

(1) Month & Year	(2) Actual Factory Production* ₁	(3) <u>Accredited Inspection & Approval</u> Factory Invoice To Ordnance* ₂	(4) <u>Final</u> Ordnance Apprl.* ₃	(5) Calculated End-month Serial Numbers* ₄
1941:				
October	101	0	0	3,000,100
November	1,892	0	0	3,001,992
December	7,031	891	1,273	3,009,023
1942:				
January	11,048	16,445	16,063	3,020,071
February	15,158	11,981	11,981	3,035,229
March	19,240	21,889	21,889	3,054,469
April	24,189	25,982	25,982	3,078,658
May	30,479	28,691	29,470	3,109,137
June	30,351	32,941	32,162	3,139,488
July	31,485	31,137	29,991	3,170,973
August	31,049	28,981	30,127	3,202,022
September	26,020	25,072	22,170	3,228,042
October	30,615	34,284	37,160	3,258,657
November	37,181	37,178	37,204	3,295,838
December	43,379	43,200	43,200	3,339,217* ₅
1943:				
January	48,024	44,418	44,618	3,388,572
February	49,704	51,886	51,774	3,458,758
March	-	59,065	58,477	3,520,614
April	-	50,287	50,287	3,573,277
May	-	35,980	35,982	3,710,958
June	-	66,640	58,962	3,780,746
July	-	42,094	49,770	3,824,829
August	-	60,565	58,265	3,888,272
September	-	64,080	66,523	3,955,409
October	-	65,253	65,610	4,023,778
November	-	62,141	61,774	4,088,927
December	-	56,251	56,415	4,147,887
1944:				
January	-	37,822	38,025	4,187,457
February	-	20,560	20,560	4,209,XXX* ₆
Grand Total:	Incomplete	1,055,714*₇	1,055,714*₇	

*** Table Assumptions and Notes:**

(Based in part on documents obtained by Clark Campbell from the Ilion, NY Remington Plant Manager files, circa 1955)

- Actual assembled rifles in the Remington warehouse inventory awaiting Ordnance inspection as shown on the Planning Supervisor's "Accounting Summary" dated March 9, 1943. No such comparable statistics are known to exist beyond February 1943. Since these were final assembled and tested rifles made ready for Ordnance Dept. inspection, they represent the earliest and most accurate base-data for approximate calculation of actual "end-of-month" production Serial Numbers (SNs) from the start of production through February, 1943.

2. Remington's rifle production based on Ordnance Dept. inspection report data used for monthly invoicing for services rendered under contract. In absence of actual factory production records predating "final inspection" via note #1 above, the "factory invoice" record becomes the next most reliable statistical basis for approximating "end-of-month" SNs.
3. Final approved rifle production based on Ordnance Dept., Small Arms Branch, Industrial Division record summary dated March 10, 1944. This report reconciles in finality all rifle inspection approval issues that may have remained after close of each monthly billing period. It is considered the U.S. Government's official production record.
4. Serial numbering began with SN 3,000,000 and numerically remained continuous to end of production except as shown below. All "end-of-month" SNs are calculated approximations only. Also, it is noted that final rifle assembly followed receiver serialization by an approximate average of 2 weeks. The factory shop-assembly process resulted in final rifle production in no particular SN order or sequence, therefore rifles with higher SNs than the number of rifles produced may exist for any given month.
 - A. SN calculations reflect the reality "gaps" as well as "duplicates" within the serial numbering process. By definition, a SN **gap** is either a dropped or unaccounted for SN ("lost"); or a serially stamped, but defective receiver never used in making a fully assembled rifle, e.g. a "scrapped" receiver. These **gaps** in the SN sequence have resulted in more SNs assigned than rifles made. The total number of **gaps** is statistically estimated to be 33,487 based on known or observed SN data and purposely distributed proportionately for simplicity purposes each month for all rifles produced from January 1943 to the end of production. A SN **duplicate** merely represents more than one rifle with the same SN.
 - B. For purposes of this Table, all M1903 "Modified" and M1903A3 receivers serially stamped before January 10, 1943 were believed to be assembled into and counted as complete rifles with little problem with SN **gaps** or **duplicates**, even though an "A" prefix system was supposedly in place to stamp a reclaimed "reject" receiver in order to avoid a **duplicate** SN. However, lack of extant evidence of "A" prefixed receivers to date assumes that marginally few actually materialized. This is more than likely explained by an extraordinary control system installed by Remington to rigorously monitor SN stamping both within the production plant, as well as a check-off at the terminal-shipping warehouse to assure only one completely assembled rifle per SN assigned.
 - C. After January 10, 1943, Remington was directed to cease monitoring SN disorders since the *Ordnance Department was no longer concerned about this problem*. Thereafter, all internal accounting controls were removed, and both **gaps** and **duplicates** occurred without any corrective measures taken. Eventually, the Ordnance Dept. recognized the folly of the foregoing, and on August 11, 1943 reinstated serial number control. This included a prefixing program for **duplicate** SNs, but using a "Z" prefix, and then requiring the stamping machine be set up to assure use of any given SN only one time. This new procedure didn't affect the continued occurrence of **gaps** due to receiver "rejects", but provided better assurance of fewer "Z" prefixes resulting from **duplicate** SNs.
 - D. A total of 120,000 SNs were reassigned from M1903 "Modified" and M1903A3 SN allocation as follows:
 - **February 1943:** As a result of War Department Production Order S-1066 dated January 18, 1943, SN block 3,407,088 and 3,427,087 (20,000 total) was reserved exclusively for the M1903A4 production.
 - **May 1943:** On February 25, 1942, the L.C. Smith-Corona Co. was given an order to produce 100,000 M1903 (...M1903A3) rifles. The SN block assigned was from 3,608,000 to 3,707,999.
 - **October 1943:** By memo of September 11, 1943, the SN block between 4,000,000 and 4,015,000 was assigned to the M1903A4 program exclusively. However at the pace of M1903A3 production at the time, SN 4,000,000 was **overrun** in October 1943 and it was too late to stop it.

Since very high M1903A3 SNs in this range have been observed (for example: 4,014,348), it is presumed that ALL 15,000 numbers were used for the M1903A3 program (*per Clark Campbell letter of 3/27/00*). Due to this overrun "snafu" into the M1903A4 program, it was requested on October 19, 1943 after about 3000 M1903A4s were "Z" prefixed as **duplicate** SNs, that a new block of numbers be assigned the M1903A4 program. The request was granted.

5. M1903A3 production phasing out the M1903 "Modified" began in December 1942 with the first 1909 rifles included in the factory invoice to the Ordnance Dept. The last of the M1903 "Modified" rifles was completed the following March 1943.
6. This so-called last SN is an **approximated** end-number only. It is based on a Rochester Ordnance District Memo to Remington dated February 17, 1944 listing **SN 4208782** as a rejected rifle failing to meet the parts inter-change test requirements. This rifle was inspected just 11 days prior to termination of all M1903A3 contract production.
7. This total Remington production includes 348,085 M1903 "Modified" rifles.

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