

**Remington M1903A4 “Snipers”
Production Data and Serial Number Schedule**

(A) Calendar Month & Year	(B) Actual*₁ Rifle Production	(C) Serial*₂ Number Adjustments	(D) Principal Barrel Date Range*₃	(E) Dominant Barrel Date(s)*₄	(F) Calculated End-month Serial No.*₅
1943					
February	102	4	1,2 - 43	1 - 43	3,407,193
March	1403	60	1 to 3 - 43	2,3 - 43	3,408,656
April	490	20	2,3 - 43	2,3 - 43	3,409,166
May	119	5	2 to 4 - 43	2,3 - 43	3,409,290
June	2342	100	2 to 6 - 43	3 - 43	3,411,732
July	2654	113	2 to 9 - 43	6,7 - 43	3,414,499
August	3276	139	7 to 9 - 43	7,8 - 43	3,417,914
September	2839	121	7 to 9 - 43	7,8,9 - 43	3,420,874
October	1563	66	8 to 10 - 43	8,9 - 43	3,422,503
November	1405	60	8 to 10 - 43	8,9 - 43	3,423,968
December	852	36	8 to 10 - 43	8,9 - 43	3,424,856
1944					
January	3179 (2140)	91	8 to 11 - 43	8,9 - 43	3,427,087
	(1039)* ₆	44	9 - 43	9 - 43	Z 4,001,083
February	3496 (1820)* ₆	77	9 to 12 - 43	9 - 43	Z 4,002,980
	(1676)* ₇	71	12- 43 to 1- 44	12 - 43	4,993,747
March	2933	125	12- 43 to 1- 44	12- 43, 1- 44	4,996,805
April	1619	69	12- 43 to 1- 44	12- 43, 1- 44	4,998,493
May	62	3	12- 43 to 1- 44	12- 43, 1- 44	4,998,558
June	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	12- 43 to 1- 44	12- 43, 1- 44	4,998,59X*₉
Totals:	28,365*₈	1205			

Notes and Assumptions:

Serial Number Assignments:

1st Block: 20,000 numbers assigned January 18, 1943 from SN 3,407,088 to 3,427,087

2nd Block: 15,000 numbers assigned June 20, 1943 from SN 4,000,001 to 4,015,000 from which a second authorization totaling 8365 rifles was to come. It was initiated on September 11, 1943 upon the Lyman Corporation’s scheduled entry into scope production for the “Snipers” program expansion as previously announced on August 2, 1943. However, this Second Block was suspended after about 2980 numbers were used due to an overrun of the “03A3 production into the block in mid-October. These “Snipers” rifles were then ordered “Z” prefixed per an August 11, 1943 Ordnance directive changing the methodology for avoiding serial number duplicates.

3rd Block: Upon discovery of the 2nd Block “*snafu*”, Remington was authorized to begin use of a new Block of numbers on October 19, 1943 beginning with SN 4,992,001 for the much expanded M1903A3 and A4 program that never materialized. As it turns out, therefore, only the “Snipers” program was to use any of this SN block.

Notes and Assumptions - Continued:

*1 Actual production each month does **not** reflect the number of complete rifles assembled in the month shown, but the number of final inspected rifles counted by Remington used for monthly invoicing to the Ordnance Department. The base data was obtained by Clark Campbell from the Ilion, NY Plant Manager files circa 1955.

*2 These are the number of estimated serial numbers added to the actual production to account for “gaps”. By definition, a SN **gap** is created when a SN is lost and/or unavailable for counting towards actual production. For example, a defective receiver scrapped after being serially stamped is “lost” to the accounting process, resulting in a **gap** in the serial number sequence since it never produced a final accepted rifle. Consequently, there were more SNs assigned and used than certified rifles produced. This total is statistically estimated to be about 4.25 percent of the total “Snipers” production (1205 total serial numbers), and in the interests of simplicity, is being proportionately distributed each month throughout manufacture.

*3 Since rifle production did not follow serial number order or date sequence, the actual range of barrel dates noted on production rifles may extend both before and after the dates or period shown. Also, the “First in-Last out” phenomena was much more aggravated than normal in the “Snipers” program due to frequent interruptions in rifle assembly (i.e. erratic production cycles) caused primarily by scope supply delays. As a result, there was a greater mix of older serially stamped receivers emerging later on in the assembly process mated to newer barrels, as well as older dated barrel stragglers mated to newer serially stamped receivers. This was especially prevalent in the July and August 1943 production.

*4 While the barrel dates might range more widely than shown during any period of rifle assembly, there is a preponderance of date(s) that statistically dominate any given production month.

*5 The end-month serial numbers are calculated, therefore represent a hypothetical estimate of what possibly could have been, but never was. Since rifle production never occurred in serial number order, no such records were ever required, let alone maintained by Ordnance or the manufacturer.

*6 It is observed that of the total actual “Snipers” rifles assembled, those with the “Z” prefix were not certified for acceptance until the months of January and February 1944, even though their receivers had been serially stamped sometime between September 11th and October 19, 1943. This unusually long delay typified the lag time in the “Snipers” program between rifle assembly and final acceptance primarily due to scope supply problems.

*7 Receivers stamped with the Third Block of SNs beginning with SN 4,992,001 began sometime after assigned on October 19, 1943. However, due to suspension of the expanded M1903A4 program for lack of scopes, rifle assembly and approval momentum was severely interrupted once again. And even though well back on track by December pursuant to winding down the “Snipers” program, finished rifles from this Block certified for acceptance approval were still delayed to February, 1944 due primarily to the scope supply problems.

*8 Even though there were actually 28,365 rifles certified for acceptance under the “Snipers” contract, it is unknown how many serially stamped overrun receivers made their way into production as non-factory authorized M1903A4 rifles. Officially such receivers were to either revert to M1903A3 production or be scrapped.

*9 This is an approximated end-number only based on current extant evidence and bears no resemblance to any last known “Snipers” serial number in existence.

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Revision Date: 2/10/05