



**GUN:** U.S. MODEL OF 1917 ENFIELD, BOLT-ACTION, 30-'06 SPRG.  
**MANUFACTURER:** REMINGTON ARMS DELAWARE, EDDYSTONE, PA.  
**SERIAL NUMBER:** 596131  
**CONDITION:** NRA VERY GOOD (80 PERCENT ORIGINAL FINISH, ALL ORIGINAL PARTS)  
**MANUFACTURED:** 1918  
**VALUE:** \$800

## U.S. Model Of 1917 Enfield

**W**hen the topic of the standard service rifle of World War I arises, most instantly recall a photo of Gary Cooper as Sgt. Alvin York sighting in his M1903 Springfield in the movie "Sergeant York" (1941). Confusion still surrounds whether or not he used a Springfield or the often-overlooked U.S. Model of 1917 Enfield. If you were to bet odds based on production numbers, there is a strong likelihood that he was armed with the U.S. Model of 1917 Enfield.

A curious piece of history, the rifle that became the Model 1917 Enfield was developed as a replacement for the British Short, Magazine Lee-Enfield. The new rifle was designed in England and was eventually known as the Pattern 1914 Service Rifle, chambered in .303 British. No sooner had the rifle been adopted than the country found itself embroiled in World War I, and all manufacturing efforts to produce the SMLE were re-doubled at the existing plants. Contracts were let with American companies to produce the new pattern rifle overseas.

Winchester, Remington Arms-UMC (Ilion, N.Y.) and Remington

Arms Delaware (Eddystone, Pa.) were given contracts to produce a .303 rifle with a five-shot magazine and a 26" barrel. Production began in 1916 and ended with 1.2 million rifles manufactured for the United Kingdom before the United States joined the war in April 1917.

The United States entered the war with only 600,000 M1903 Springfields on hand. Production had been halted at the Rock Island Armory some years previous, and Ordnance officers scurried to find adequate facilities and manufacturers of rifles to arm the expected million-man expeditionary force. The two Remington plants and the Winchester factory were approached with small design changes to convert the P'1914 British Enfield into the Model of 1917 Enfield in .30-'06 Sprg. The gun is called a variety of names, including the erroneous P17 (Pattern 1917), the U.S. Model of 1917 Enfield, the "American Enfield" and simply the "Eddystone," a moniker derived from one of the three factories that produced the rifle.

Production began in mid-1917 and continued for a few months following the end of the war. Winchester Repeating Arms Co.

produced 465,980 rifles, Remington Arms in Ilion produced 545,541 rifles and the Remington plant in Eddystone produced 1,181,908 rifles, for a grand total of 2,193,429. All these were produced in under 24 months while the entire output of production for the Springfield Armory and the Rock Island Armory for M1903 rifles was a combined total of only 1.2 million over a period of 16 years. Of the actual serviceable rifles produced and available for issue to U.S. troops in World War I, three out of four rifles were Model of 1917 Enfields.

Today a keen interest has developed among collectors for the gun. Only 10 years ago prices were quite modest, but now firearms in decent (50 to 75 percent) condition bring anywhere from \$350 to \$600, depending on the manufacturer. Winchester-marked rifles bring the highest premium with Remington next, and Eddystone marked-guns, being the most commonly encountered, the least. High-polish blue guns with matching barrels and receivers can bring, according to the 28th Edition of the *Blue Book of Gun Values*, close to \$2,500. ★

—PHILIP SCHREIER, SENIOR CURATOR,  
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