

BOOK REVIEW: COLLECTING THE M1 CARBINE

There has been another book recently published about collecting the M1 Carbine. The title is *Collecting the M1 Carbine* by Jesse C. Harrison, and is the third in a series titled A Collector's Field Guide to U.S. Military Arms.

The book is 5½" by 8½", and contains 209 pages. The binding of the book is a plastic "comb" that allows the book to be placed flat on a table, so the person involved can then have both hands free to examine the carbine in question.

The book starts with a short preface, then goes into the "basics." This section covers mandatory markings, "all matching?", wear patterns, prime marked parts, original and counterfeit markings, and rare carbines. The part on rare carbines does cover most of the known oddities, but appears that it could have been taken directly from Larry Ruth's first book on the M1 Carbine. One example of a mistake found is carbines marked ROCK-OLA, QUALITY HMC, and NATIONAL POSTAL METER, with a UN code on the receiver bevel. Obviously this is something the Carbine Club knows does not exist. This particular example appears to be corrected in later parts of the book in the illustrations, but must have been missed in proof reading.

The next section covers "parts identification." It goes into pretty exacting detail on what particular coded parts are to go on a particular variation of the carbine. It also explains the differences in types of, and variations of the manufacture of the parts. This section is followed by a section titled "Arsenal Reworking," which details what was done in the arsenals to update the carbine.

By far the largest section is titled "Identification Charts." This section details the carbine by model years. This is accomplished by listing the Model of 1942 through the Model of 1945. It is explained that these designations should not be construed to reflect actual production by year, but as a designation of the style of parts used in the transitional models, as well as the final model. The parts codes are listed in a fashion very similar to the method used in Larry Ruth's book. This could lead to confusion by a novice collector, as well as the fact that some items could be contested by data already presented and verified by our Club.

The next section covered is "Lateral Support." It covers transferred parts that were handled through the carbine industry integration committee. This section goes into some detail on the subject, but it is not nearly as thorough as *War Baby*, also by Larry Ruth.

The final section is titled "special sections." Covered items include Winchester carbines, the M1A1 carbines, types of markings, and finally a markings index. The markings index is 36 pages long, and covers virtually every part code known. There could be a lot of speculation on the author's part in this section, and it also includes a few 03A3 codes!

All in all this is an interesting book, but all information appears to also be found in *War Baby*. There are sections that would be rather complicated for the novice collector, and could cause that person a problem. The book does specify the complexity of the M1 Carbine, but is written to be all inclusive.

The book is available from The Arms Chest, 6401 S. Westminister, Oklahoma City, OK 73150. The cost is \$29.95 (shipping and handling included).

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