

BOOK REVIEW: THE M1 CARBINE OWNER'S GUIDE

Noted authors Larry Ruth and Scott Duff have collaborated to bring Carbine collectors a handy little guide-book, that contains just about everything a beginning carbine collector needs to appreciate the history of this rifle, learn how to fieldstrip and care for it, understand the differences in parts, and just plain enjoy it. They also took care to include warnings and cautions, to prevent readers from making the same mistakes that most of us made 15-20 years ago, which often-times resulted in damaged parts and scratched parkerizing.

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The first part of the book is dedicated to the origin and production history of the carbine, including charts that match serial number ranges to approximate production dates. The myriad of variations, due to receiver "sharing" among contractors, is also covered. Parts nomenclature, drawing numbers, and the differences in types of parts follows. Subsequent chapters explain operation and functioning, disassembly/assembly, trouble-shooting, cleaning/lubricating and maintenance, tips on improving accuracy, and zeroing the carbine. Contributing authors also give good advice on selecting and inspecting a carbine, and safety as well as collector information. Never-before-published data includes Winchester's exact production figures, by serial number, from the beginning of production through January 1944. Lastly, the appendix lists a host of recommended gunsmiths, parts and accessories dealers, and related publications and where to find them.

This book seems to have the most amount of interesting, useful, and valuable information that can be found in a small (6" x 9") publication that is only 132 pages long. I was upset, however, to see that the Carbine Club's address was in error, and a number of typos and word-processing goofs were not corrected prior to the book's apparently-hurried printing. I hope that an errata sheet will be forthcoming.

This book is recommended to Carbine Club members. It can be purchased from Scott A. Duff Publications, PO Box 414, Export, PA 15632. Phone is 724-327-8246, fax is 724-327-4192. Cost is \$19.95, plus \$3.05 shipping. (Pennsylvania residents add \$1.20 sales tax.) Visa or Mastercard accepted.

The \$23.00 cost will be more than offset if the book's tips and cautions prevent a collector from damaging a rifle or a part. When I started, the only booklet available was Robert Gibson's "Guide to Collecting the M1 Carbine." Although it was quite good and spawned an intense interest that has lasted 20 years, I do wish that Larry and Scott's book was available to me then.

Marty Black

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