



Five hundred special Springfield shipping drums still contained ten new M1 rifles. RIGHT: One of them was opened for the first time in more than 50 years.



reported that several M1s with low serial numbers were observed, including Springfield M1 #200 and #592, the latter shown on page 27. Both were manufactured in 1937.

All M1 rifles up to about serial number 50,000 were originally "gas trap" systems. Springfield began converting them to use barrels with gas ports in 1940.

Those M1s that had been issued to South Korean troops had unit numbers painted on their stocks, while the rest remained new or like new, as new refurbished, still sealed in

their original shipping crates and sleeves.

There were also 500 Springfield special steel drums, each containing ten rifles. A photo of one of these is shown above, as it was opened to examine the M1s it contained. They were new and unused.

With historical and political details of the above situation abounding, it is the photographs of our M1 rifles remaining in South Korea that are of the most interest, and they are seen here for the first time. ©

M1 CAUTION!

Experts caution M1 Garand owners on the dangers of shooting commercial .30-06 ammunition in these rifles, as they were designed to use 150-grain GI .30 M2 ball, 165-grain .30 AP, and GI 173-grain Match ammunition, as well as the GI 7.62x51mm NATO in those M1 counterparts.

A major factor here is the harder GI primer used to prevent slam fires. Having fired many rounds of Federal .30-06 Gold and .308M rounds in M1s and M1As, I've never had or heard of a problem, and I understand that Federal uses the G210M (hard) primer in these rounds.

Federal and Hornady offer .30-06 loads especially for the M1 rifle. Special adjustable gas plugs, such as the Schuster, are also available, and remember to check and replace the recoil spring.

A slam fire from shooting commercial .30-06 with

standard primers is courting disaster, as it could drive the bolt through the rear of the receiver. My longtime friend, CWO-2 John M. Miller, USA (Ret.), also advises M1 reloaders to stick with 4895, 3031, 4064, or Ball C-2 powder, a hard primer, and bullets not exceeding 175 grains.

Favorable movement in getting the historic South Korean M1 Garands back and making them available for sale to American collectors may not be forthcoming, but writing your representatives will help keep the issue at the forefront.

Owning firearms has never been about hunting. The Founding Fathers didn't draft the Second Amendment to the Constitution because "The deer were coming."

To keep your M1 Garand and the rest of your guns, join the NRA. And do it *now!*