

M1917 U.S. Enfield Rifle

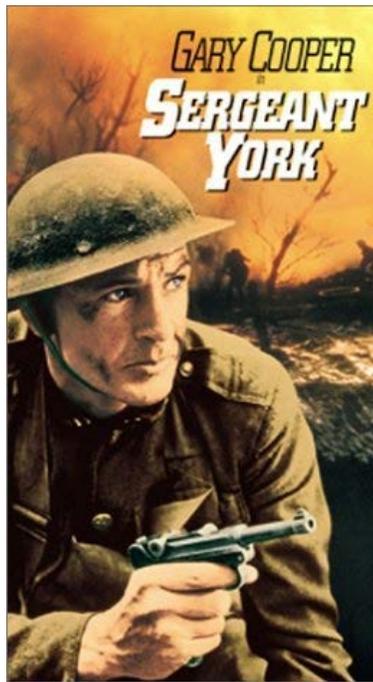
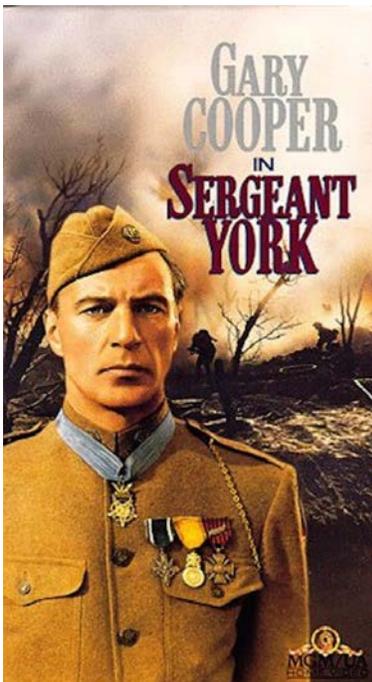


Produced in larger quantities by Remington (Illion, NY - 545,541 rifles and Eddystone, PA – 1,181,908 rifles) and Winchester (New Haven, CT – 465,980 rifles) than the M1903 Springfield, the U.S. M1917 Enfield was a modification of the British Pattern 14 (P14) .303 service rifle redesigned to fire the U.S. .30-06 ball cartridge from 5-round stripper clips. The rifle also fixed the distinctive Enfield M1917 bayonet, with two parallel grooves cut in the wooden handle between pommel and guard and sheathed in a long olive-drab painted leather scabbard.



This serviceable, if homely rifle was carried by many troops who never saw the elegant regulation Springfield, or trained with M1903s only to be issued M1917s in France. America's most famous Doughboy, Alvin York from Tennessee, carried an Enfield in the Argonne to win his Medal of Honor, with an M1911 Colt at his belt. Capturing 130 Germans single-handed, silencing machine gun fire, and killing over 25 enemy combatants with rifle and pistol fire, York preserved his squad from death or capture to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, soon upgraded to the Medal of Honor for the sheer bravery of his exploits. In the film *Sergeant York*, 1941, Gary Cooper is inaccurately depicted as York armed with a Springfield and a P-08 German Luger pistol. Otherwise, Cooper caught the character of the conscript with a conscience from the Volunteer State with his memorable performance.





Although Hollywood is often a wealth of visual imagery for historical depiction, one must be careful in believing without a little further reading!



The manual for the Enfield mirrors that of the Springfield: basically, there are few handling differences between the two rifles. The Enfield can generate a faster rate of fire, while the Springfield is more accurate at longer ranges. Similar stripper clips to the M1903 Springfield's five rounds of .30-06 cartridges were issued for the M1917 Enfield.



So, in two wars, Springfield and Enfield Rifles were the mainstays of the American soldier.

M1917 Enfield

1. Heel. 2. Rear Sight Wing Guard. 3. Hand Guard. 4. Front Sight Wing Guard.



U.S. M1917 Bayonet and Scabbard.

5. Safety Lock. 6. Bolt Handle. 7. Bolt. 8. Toe. 9. Floor Plate.



10. Trigger Guard. 11. Bolt Stop. 12. Rear Sight.