

The Marine Rifle

As I look at this rifle and think of the years of research that went into it, I hear the Marine Lt Col. who put the idea into my head as he gave me a lesson on Marine history when he commented that I was building the first marine sniper rifles and that marines had these rifles on the Bonhomme Richard and from high in it's rigging, they controlled the British deck to the point that no gun on the H.M.S. Serapis could be manned.

I see the Viet Nam veteran in front of my table at Dixons Gunmakers Fair in Kempston Pennsylvania wearing his Marine Corps baseball hat and an empty sleeve. I boldly asked him about it and he said that he left it in Viet Nam. He told me that he begged them not to discharge him as he could still work and do most anything they wanted done. I invited him behind my table, as I did every marine I met, to get his opinion of the rifle and find out what means the most to a Marine. I see the middle aged marine veteran who after looking at the rifle, went to his car and brought a photo of his dad in the Marine uniform circa world war two. I see the 90 year old veteran who was one of those marines who survived Guadalcanal, (six weeks, no supplies, no re-enforcements, the Japanese running troops in every night and those marines killing them every day and living on what they could get from the dead. They still held the Jap airstrip when Adm. Halsey returned six weeks later), his comment to me, "Ya, there weren't many of us that made it". The rifle I had then was the first, this one you are looking at has part of every Marine in it.

I could go on with examples of what these Marines told me. The young marines I talked to are as amazing as the older veterans.

May we never forget!

Wayne F. Watson